

Two killed in Azerbaijan clashes

MOSCOW (R) — Two people were killed and 12 injured after clashes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the village of Balak, a local official said Monday. The violence was the latest in a long-running dispute between the two neighbouring Soviet Transcaucasian republics over Nagorno-Karabakh, a province in Azerbaijan. The attacks took place Thursday, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ismail Agayev said. "Two people were killed and 12 were injured, but in a short time the incident was localised," he said. Many of those involved were Azerbaijanis who had fled from Armenia, amid worsening ethnic relations. More than 100 people have been killed in the last 18 months in a dispute between the two republics triggered by calls from Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian majority for the enclave to be transferred to Armenia.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

PNF to be moved to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government has agreed to a request that the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) be transferred to Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Monday. The PNF, which used to be based in Beirut, was moved to Amman after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 but was closed in 1986. The PNF is the central body that controls the finances of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In a related development, informed sources said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was due in Amman next week for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other senior Jordanian leaders on Jordan-PLO cooperation and coordination and progress of efforts for peace in the Middle East. Arafat is currently attending a congress of the mainstream Fatah faction of the PLO in Tunis (see story below).

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Sharif Zaid, Qasem due in Kuwait today

KUWAIT (R) — Two Jordanian leaders will visit Kuwait Tuesday in talks which are expected to ease on Jordan's economy. The Kuwaiti news agency UNA said Monday that Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem would be carrying messages from His Majesty King Hussein to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. After King Hussein visited Jeddah last week, Jordanian officials said Amman had received \$200 million in new aid from Saudi Arabia to help ease problems over the balance of payments.

Dinar remains firm
In Amman, the Jordanian dinar remained firm against the dollar in the free market Monday following Central Bank intervention to stabilise the domestic currency, dealers said. They said the dinar was trading at 818 fils to the dollar, unchanged from Sunday but up from Saturday's widely quoted rate of 880 fils. The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 583, unchanged on Saturday. Some dealers said Gulf banks, the main source of dollars for Jordan, were still unclear on the long term of the dinar's exchange rate would remain unchanged after the Central Bank began pumping in more than \$25 million for free and official market use. The dinar was trading at around 818 fils in the Gulf, the dealers added, up from last week's 890 fils. On Monday, the Central Bank began selling some of the \$16.5 million it had earmarked for banks at 815 fils. It told banks to sell the dollars to their customers at no more than 820 fils. It also began providing another \$10 million to the banks which have been told to sell them at official rate to finance imports of some medicine; fees of Jordanian students studying abroad and subsidised food stuffs. The move came days after Jordan received \$200 million aid from Riyadh.

Dealers said the move, an apparent effort to halt a black market and stabilise the dinar at a range of \$15/\$20, would succeed so long as the Central Bank continued its intervention. A week ago, the Central Bank established a two-tier system to curb the black market and encourage Jordanian expatriates to send their dollars home through the banking system. It freed banks to trade foreign currency at market rates but instructed them to use the official rate to finance key imports.

Jordan-Soviet talks to cover debts, cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taha Al-Sayid left for Moscow Monday to resume talks on rescheduling Jordan's debt to the Soviet Union, a Prime Ministry official said. The official said Masri would discuss trade and bilateral economic cooperation during a annual meeting due to open in Moscow Wednesday. Masri told airport reporters before his departure "the size of the debt is estimated at \$1 billion which was the cost of various Soviet arms bought by the Jordanian government," the AP reported. A senior Jordanian official told Reuters this week Jordan hoped to reschedule its debt to Moscow in the same terms by which it scheduled its foreign debt to the Paris Club of major Western nations.

He would not reveal the size of a debt but said a figure of \$200 million, most of it said to involve arms sales, reported in an Arabic-language magazine was too high. The Kingdom turned to Moscow for arms in 1982, buying missiles and anti-aircraft guns. Amman signed an air defence agreement with Moscow in 1985, after Washington blocked a deal for Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. An official trade delegation will leave for Moscow Tuesday to meet in Masri for the meeting on economic cooperation.

Fateh endorses Arafat strategy

JNIS (R) — Fateh, the main group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), endorsed Monday to follow through its diplomatic campaign for a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Delegates to a congress of more than 1,100 Fateh members, a movement's first since 1980, at Arafat won 90 per cent support in a vote taken in the early 1980s. The 10 per cent who voted against, mostly hardliners with reservations about Arafat's concessions to Israel, said they would vote by the majority decision, it said. Texts of the political resolutions were not immediately available but delegates said they endorsed the strategy adopted by the PLO's National Council (NC) in Algiers last year. Arafat aides and non-Fateh leaders allied to the PLO chairman said they were delighted with the outcome.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with American Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Sharif. Zaid Ibn Shaker and American Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth (Photo by Youssef Aljam)

Jordan seeks Arab grants and interest-free deposits

By Rama Sabbagh Reuters
AMMAN — Jordan, rescheduling part of its \$8 billion foreign debt, is seeking two kinds of Arab aid over the next four years, according to officials and diplomats. He said the deposit would be a contribution on which Jordan need pay no interest but which it could place at other banks and use the interest paid by them to boost its foreign exchange. He and others declined to give further information on the duration of the deposit or the size of the expected Arab aid. Finance Minister Basal Jaradneh said in July that the target agreed with the IMF for foreign aid was about \$400 million for 1989, up from an earlier estimate of \$296 million. A 10-year pact under which Arab countries pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year expired in 1988. Only Saudi Arabia honoured it fully, paying \$360 million a year. The Paris Club of creditors agreed last month to reschedule some of Jordan's official debt and

talks will soon start with the London Club of banks on rescheduling its commercial debt. Arab diplomats said countries on which Jordan pinned high hopes for aid and deposits were Saudi Arabia, which gave Jordan \$200 million in aid this week, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. They said Oman and Kuwait gave Jordan a total of \$100 million in cash and free oil after April. Iraq gave \$20 million in addition to the \$20 million it pays each month to settle its more than \$800 million debt to Amman. "Oman also promised another \$10 million this year and Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have shown strong determination to help Jordan, whose stability is vital to the region," an Arab diplomat said.

Syria criticises Arab panel's report

Intense battle closes sole Beirut crossing

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen and rightist forces fought artillery and tank duels across the dividing green line Monday, forcing the closure of the only crossing between Beirut's two sectors. Police said seven people were killed and 38 wounded. A police spokesman said the casualties included one person killed and at least 10 wounded in shooting that erupted as they were walking across the museum crossing, a broad avenue near the disputed parliament. The other victims were killed overnight during the 12th straight night of random bombardment. The shelling has emptied the city of all but 200,000 of its 1.5 million residents. The new casualties raised the overall toll to 549 killed and 1,322 wounded since the latest round in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war broke out March 8, two days after army commander Michel Aoun blockaded ports operated by Syrian-backed militias. The spokesman said an empty upper floor of the eight-storey Barbi hospital overlooking the crossing from the western side took a direct hit of from a shell during the afternoon flareup. The thuds of explosions resounded across the ravaged capital, forcing the few businesses that opened early in the morning to close as civilians headed for bomb shelters. It was the second straight day of fighting along the five-kilometre green line that splits the city. Police said the Syrians have buttressed their forces with dozens of T-62 tanks and multi-barrelled rocket launchers that fire 40 rockets a minute. The reinforcements arrived amid rumours that Aoun's 20,000 troops might storm west Beirut to seize Lebanon's central bank. Syria meanwhile hit back at Arab mediators who last week abandoned efforts to bring peace to Lebanon and implicitly criticised Damascus's role in the fighting there. Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, in a letter to the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, said their report contradicted resolutions adopted by an Arab League summit which launched the peace initiative. The summit in May gave the heads of state of the three countries a six-month mandate to try to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war. The three leaders drew up a plan calling for a ceasefire in Lebanon and urged an end to naval blockades and a meeting of the Lebanese parliament. But the three foreign ministers said last week they had reached a dead end. They said obstacles included the Israeli occupation of part of southern Lebanon and Syria's refusal to accept a timetable for the withdrawal of its 40,000 troops.

Protracted process seen in hostage negotiations

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A senior United Nations envoy said Monday after five days of talks in Lebanon and Syria that current circumstances "may be more conducive" to ending the plight of the Western hostages. Murrack Goulding, head of U.N. peacekeeping operations, said, however, their release would come only "through a long process of quiet and patient diplomacy." "Many governments and organisations will have to take part. It will be a cooperative effort," Goulding told reporters in Beirut. "It's a very difficult and very complicated problem in which there are a large number of elements and a large number of players involved," he added. "There are certain tendencies, certain trends in the international climate which suggest that circumstances may be more conducive to a settlement to the hostages problem now than they have been sometime in the past," he said. Goulding spoke after two meetings in west Beirut with acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizbollah (Party of God). The Shi'ite party is believed to be the umbrella of pro-Iranian extremist factions holding most of the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, rejecting a new demand for release of a kidnapped Lebanese Shi'ite cleric, urged Hizbollah and other groups to use the "right, proper channels" of the Red Cross to arrange a hostage-prisoner swap. Other Israeli officials said the government would only accept a deal if three Israeli soldiers were included, and right-wing politicians called for reprisals against Shi'ite groups if they harmed Israeli captives. Rabin, interviewed on the American television network ABC, said Israel had received no "real proposal" for swapping foreign hostages and captured soldiers for Shi'ites held by Israel, including kidnapped Lebanese cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obaid. His comments came a day after the Revolutionary Justice Organisation in Beirut issued a statement offering to exchange American hostage Joseph Cicippio for Obaid, 300 Lebanese prisoners and 150 Palestinians jailed in the 20-month uprising against Israeli occupation. According to unofficial estimates, Israel holds about 400 Shi'ites. More than 8,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails in connection with the uprising. In response to the offer in Beirut, Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said Israel still was insisting on its original proposal of swapping Shi'ite prisoners, including Obaid, for three captured Israeli soldiers and 17 foreign hostages in Lebanon. "If we won't get the Israelis, there won't be a deal," Liel said. Also in Lebanon, Hussein Mouawiyah, a leader of the Hizbollah, threatened Sunday to kill an Israeli soldier if Obaid was not returned. In other developments in the hostage crisis: ★ Algerian Ambassador Khaled Hasnawi, leading a mediation effort by his country to help free the hostages, met with Hoss and later with Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili, a senior Hizbollah leader. Both Tofaili and Hasnawi told reporters afterwards their talks focused on ways of pressuring Israel to release Obaid. ★ Analysts have concluded that the body hanging from a rope in a videotape released by kidnappers last week was that of U.S. hostage William R. Higgins, U.S. Defence Department sources said Monday. "It is our understanding that the study is concluded... evidently, they have concluded that the figure in the tape is Rich (Higgins) and that he is dead," said a Defence Department official, who spoke on condition he not be identified. The sources said the study was not able to pinpoint the cause of death. It was also not clear when Higgins died. ★ President George Bush saluted the memory of Higgins, but kept a studied silence on efforts to free other American hostages. Bush, speaking at a ceremony in Fort Myer, Virginia, marking the 200th anniversary of the Defence Department, said Higgins was a symbol of courage. He praised Higgins, assigned to the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon when he was kidnapped in February 1988, in a speech of tribute to U.S. military personnel. ★ U.S. officials wary of the unpredictability of events in the Middle East, are meanwhile avoiding comments that could raise hopes that U.S. hostages in Lebanon may soon be free. "We try not to get overly enthusiastic or discouraged about individual statements," one official said of statements from factions in Lebanon and government outlets in Iran. "In the Middle East nothing is clear," the official added. ★ The Soviet Union has appealed to Israel to help solve the hostage crisis, saying the current difficulty began with Israel's seizure of Obaid. "The Soviet Union is undertaking intensive efforts to prevent escalation of violence and the uncontrolled development of the situation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Pavlov told a news conference Monday. "We have made a corresponding appeal to the government of Israel, on which more than anything the course of developments now depends."

King affirms support for PLO, urges U.S. to seek peace conference

By Ghadeer Taher Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday reaffirmed Jordan's total support for peace moves made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and urged the U.S. administration to work towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly which covered Middle East peace prospects, the hostage crisis in Lebanon and bilateral relations, the King emphasised Jordan's stand that an international conference under U.N. auspices and attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO was the only forum to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. "Jordan's position on reaching a just and durable peace settlement to the Palestinian problem is based on international legitimacy and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their national soil," Petra quoted the King as telling Kelly in the meeting attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the American ambassador to Jordan, Roscoe Suddarth. Petra said Kelly, who visited Israel and Egypt before arriving in Amman Sunday, briefed the King on his talks with Israeli leaders and Palestinian representatives and outlined the Bush administration's approach towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and the hostage crisis in Lebanon. He also delivered to the King a personal message from President George Bush. Petra said Kelly conveyed to the King greetings from Bush and Secretary of State James Baker and voiced appreciation of the Monarch's "leadership, experience and continued efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East." The King's reaffirmation of the Kingdom's total support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was seen as an implicit reiteration of Jordan's position that the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories is not feasible in its present form, which is not part of any comprehensive process lead to a just and durable peace settlement. The U.S.-supported Israeli plan is mostly seen as a stalling tactic and a move, if ever realised, towards singling out Palestinians living under occupation as interlocutors and alternative to the PLO. "In essence, the King told the Americans not to waste time looking for an alternative Palestinian leadership to replace the PLO, and reaffirmed that Jordan would not represent the Palestinians at any peace talks," said an informed source. The King also urged the U.S. to work towards convening an international peace conference through expanding the ongoing dialogue between Washington and the PLO, added the source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. It was the same message that Kelly received from the Palestinian notables he met with in the occupied territories and Egyptian leaders in Cairo and, according to observers, should have been a strong reminder to the Bush administration of the inevitability of PLO participation in any realistic peace process. However, there is little indication that the administration is willing to accept a direct PLO role in peace talks. A firm sign of the American position came when U.S. officials refused to characterise Kelly's meeting with the Palestinians as an extension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue as asserted by the Palestinians who attended the meeting. In a separate meeting Monday, Sharif Zaid and Kelly reviewed the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations as well as means to develop Jordanian-American economic ties, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine, Finance Minister Basal Jaradneh and Planning Minister Ziyad Faris. Qasem also held a separate meeting with Kelly and reviewed with him issues of mutual interest, Petra said. In a statement he issued upon his departure from Amman later Monday, Kelly described his talks here as "productive... fruitful and educational." Kelly said the discussions also covered bilateral relations "an area in which the United States wants to be of help to Jordan."

Israeli guns claim two more Palestinian lives

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 15-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed Sunday in a clash with troops and another youth died of wounds sustained in a previous confrontation, hospital officials said. The army confirmed Fayiz Aish Al Nadr, 15, was killed in the Gaza Strip in a confrontation with troops and said the military was investigating the "exact circumstances" of his death. Hospital officials said another Palestinian youth, Mones Abdul Jawad Mohammad Faris, 16, died Sunday of wounds he sustained in a Wednesday clash. In the Gaza Strip, Naji Juma Abu Afi, 27, died at the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis of stab wounds suffered Sunday in the nearby Bani Suhaila village, hospital officials said. Palestinian reporters in Gaza said Abu Afi was suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. The military command confirmed that Abu Afi was brought to the hospital with serious stab wounds Sunday and said it was checking further. In another development, an Israeli court postponed for the third time the manslaughter trial of rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of Jewish settlers in the West Bank town of Hebron. Levinger is charged in the death last September of Kayed Salah, 42, a Hebron merchant. Witnesses have said Levinger opened fire after his car was stoned, killing Salah and wounding another Palestinian. Levinger denies the charges. **Soldiers rob Gazan** A Palestinian from the Gaza Strip accused Israeli soldiers Sunday of stealing nearly JD 8,000 from him during an arbitrary roadside search. An army spokesman confirmed that the man, Saleh Salim Habib, lodged a complaint with military authorities in Gaza. He said the military police and army prosecutors were investigating the charge. Palestinians have repeatedly accused soldiers of stealing during the uprising. Last month four soldiers were jailed from 18 months to four-and-a-half years for robbing Arabs during body searches in the Gaza Strip. Habib, a building contractor, said he was repairing his van outside Gaza City Thursday when an army jeep drove up and three soldiers demanded to know what he was hiding inside. Two soldiers searched the vehicle, finding JD 8,000 while the third beat him on his head and neck, he said. The soldiers then ordered him to drive in front of their jeep toward Gaza City. Habib complied but after a short distance he noticed in his rear-view mirror that the jeep had disappeared, he said. Feeling dazed after the beating, Habib said he eventually lost consciousness and crashed into an electrical pylon by the road. He was taken to hospital in moderate condition. "The soldiers spoke Arabic with Hebrew accents," Habib said from his hospital bed.

فلسطين للأمل

The top three floors of the five-storey building are not used by guests because of the danger of rockets, the hotel management said. But this, the first time in

The pool area is frequently crowded with residents using the hotel facilities. On Monday it was deserted following Sunday's rocket barrage.

The hotel shook as the rockets, with their distinctive whistle and booms, struck in rapid succession. Smoke filled the lobby and glass shattered.

The paper said Iran was ready to work for the release of hostages but Washington's immediate reaction to Rajsanjani's offer a week ago was hasty and the Americans misunderstood what Iran meant.

The newspaper said the offer was simply humanitarian.

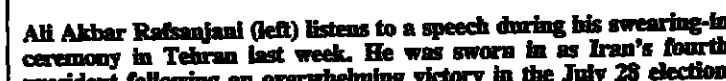
"Iran believes all hostages should be immediately released and that of course includes Iranian hostages kidnapped years ago in Lebanon," it said.

Three Iranians went missing at a militia checkpoint north of Beirut in July 1982.

She travels with a Diva's typical trappings — a 10-car motorcade and 25-person entourage that includes friends, backup singers, a dressmaker, hairdresser, doctor and attorney.

On stage, she normally stands stock still, defiant and somewhat melancholy in front of a 40-piece orchestra. An occasional shake of the shoulders or a slight gesture with her left arm are the only movements.

Songs about Lebanon produce the most visible emotion. In one, she threw both arms into the air when she reached the final line: "I love you Lebanon, my homeland."



The result has been to increase Iran's leverage over the kidnappers, the analysts said.

NICOSIA (AP) — The mother of Iran's new "leader," Khamenei, died Sunday, the day he was confirmed as Ayatollah Khomeini's successor, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. IRNA said Hajieh Mirdamadi died of heart failure. She was 76. The agency said a funeral service to be held Monday in the provincial capital of Mashhad where she lived.

19:00	Calcutta, New Delhi (RJ)	London (yellow)	330/
20:30	Damascus (RJ)	London (green)	280/
20:40	Kuwait (RJ)	Milrow (large)	300/
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	Milrow (small)	350/
21:00	Larnaca (RJ)	Oke	500/

King cables best wishes to Iraqi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Iraq's Victory Day anniversary.

The anniversary commemorates the victories of the Iraq Armed Forces and people "that are a source of pride for the Arab people everywhere," the King said in his cable.

He noted that "the Arab masses had followed with great pride and continued support the Iraqi victories and had supported their stand in the Arab nation's battle of destiny."

"I am glad to send you in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian people my sincerest good wishes and brotherly feeling on this occasion," the King added.

He wished the president success in the leadership of his people towards further progress and development.

National industrial fair to start Aug. 11

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the Kingdom's celebrations marking the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne on Aug. 11 the first national industrial exhibition will be organised in Amman, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

The exhibition which will be set up at the site of the international exhibitions at Marj Al Hamam, west of here, is expected to display products by 200 Jordanian firms and industries, Saqqaf said in his announcement Monday.

He said that the exhibition, which is being organised by the ministry's Trade Centre's Corporation, aims at orienting the Jordanian public on the national industries which are of a quality that competes with all similar products manufactured by other countries.

The exhibition, he added, is also designed to boost the national economy by encouraging Jordanians to opt for their national products.

To be displayed are samples of

foodstuffs, leather, petrochemical products, wooden and metal wares, textiles and other products, Saqqaf noted.

He said that the exhibition will be open as of Friday Aug. 11 day and night and for a period of 15 days.

Saqqaf called on the Jordanian public to visit the exhibition to inspect the national industrial products and noted that transport facilities will be made available around the clock.

Last February, a permanent exhibition of Jordanian industries opened at the Sahab Industrial City (SIC). Many of the 140 industries housed at the SIC are represented at the exhibition which displays products ranging from electrical appliances as well as plastic and chemical products and furniture.

The past year witnessed an upsurge of national industries in Jordan and the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) was forced to announce an expansion to the SIC in Amman and to speed up work on yet another industrial city near the northern city of Irbid.

New charity to organise relief to friendly states

AMMAN (Petra) — The coming few days will witness the birth of a new Jordanian charitable organisation designed to organise Jordan's relief aid to Arab and Islamic countries.

An official announcement here said that the new organisation, to be named the Hashemite Jordanian Organisation for Relief and Cooperation in Development in Arab and Islamic Countries will be governed by a board of trustees operating under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The 15-member board will group representatives of private and public organisations operating in Jordan and abroad, the announcement noted.

The new organisation will be financed through contributions and Zakat (alms for the poor) Funds and other donations, the announcement said.

It said that a special team preparing for the creation of the new organisation has almost completed its task and has worked out the organisation's statute.

The projected organisation will not only address matters related to relief and assistance but will also include the implementation of development projects, making available scholarships and helping needy Islamic communities to obtain aid in employment, the announcement pointed out.

It said victims of natural disasters and needy people in general in Jordan and other Arab and Islamic nations will benefit from the organisation's services.

Among the projects to be adopted initially are those being conducted in Sudan, the construction of hospitals and clinics in Arab and Islamic states and the care for the orphans, a scheme under which a benefactor will undertake to provide for one or more orphans through annual or monthly payments, as well as providing rehabilitation services to needy handicapped persons.

Jordan, Soviets to discuss launching joint projects

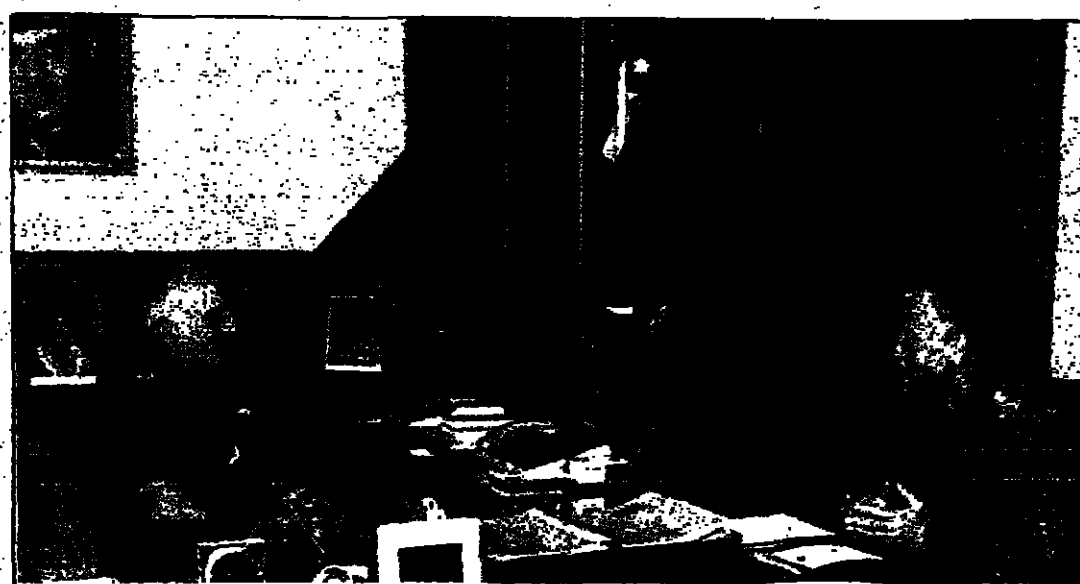
AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Soviet economic cooperation committee is due to open a meeting in Moscow Wednesday to discuss launching joint projects and boosting bilateral trade.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf said that the week-long meeting will also discuss the creation of trade centres for both countries in Amman and Moscow in the course of boosting trade, the organisation of trade fairs to promote the sale of Soviet and Jordanian products, with each fair selling directly to the public goods worth \$5 million, and increasing the volume of trade exchanged between the two sides.

Saqqaf, who heads the Jordanian side to the meeting in Moscow, said that the two sides will discuss the implementation of the phosphoric acid and phosphoric fertilisers project in Jordan, a scheme for which the two sides are finalising a feasibility study.

The Jordanian side to the meeting which is due to leave Tuesday for the Soviet capital includes four senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The joint committee last met in Amman in May when it discussed trade issues and adjusting the balance of trade between the two countries which is heavily in favour of the Soviet Union.



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Monday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters and discussed with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh matters related to the Armed Forces. The King heard a briefing on the training exercises the Armed Forces will conduct during the second half of this year. The King also paid field visits to the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division as well as other formations where he was briefed about their various training activities. The King concluded his tour by visiting the Air Force Command.

Crown Prince, Singaporean envoy discuss technological cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Technological and industrial cooperation between Singapore and Jordan were discussed at a meeting here Monday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Singapore Ambassador to Jordan Tang King Jin.

They reviewed cultural relations, the exchange of expertise in various fields and the execution of joint ventures, as well as cooperation in maritime transport services.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Jordan and Singapore are already involved in refrigeration projects and a scheme for the assembly of computers in Jordan and that production will soon start in the Kingdom. It said that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology are playing leading roles in such a cooperation.

In January 1989 former RSS

President Jawad Al Anani announced that the society was making preparations for the production of computers in cooperation with Singapore and part of the locally produced computer sets will be sold to local schools.

The computer business, he said, was part of the RSS endeavours to promote the Kingdom's cooperation with other nations in the transfer of technology and in promoting that national industry.

S. Korea gives 2 water tanker trucks to Agriculture Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The South Korean embassy in Amman Monday presented the Ministry of Agriculture with two water tanker trucks each with a 12-cubic-metre capacity to boost the Jordanian government's potential in executing afforestation projects in the Kingdom.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the two trucks received by Dr. Adnan Badran, minister of agriculture, from the South Korean Ambassador in Amman, Tae Jin Park, will help ministry teams water trees planted alongside roads in the Kingdom.

The minister and the ambassador discussed bilateral cooperation in agricultural fields during a

meeting that followed the presentation of the two trucks.

The director of the ministry's afforestation department Ghalib Abu Arrabi said in a statement later that the Ministry of Agriculture plans to plant trees along the desert highways in Jordan and the two trucks, like the two similar ones received from South Korea last year, are bound to help the country carry out the project.

South Korean embassy staff and senior officials attended the meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KING CONDOLES: His Majesty King Hussein has delegated the governor of Irbid to convey his condolences to Al Sharideh family on the death of late Hamza Al Sharideh. Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi had earlier announced the death of former member of parliament Hamzeh Al Sharideh. (Petra)

JORDAN TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED MEETING: Jordan is to take part in a Non-Aligned countries foreign ministers meeting due to open in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on Aug. 31, according to a cabinet statement issued Monday. The statement said that the four-day meeting will prepare the agenda for the Non-Aligned countries summit meeting which is scheduled to be held in Belgrade on Sept. 4. According to the statement, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will lead Jordan's delegation to the foreign ministers meeting.

SUPPLY LAW VIOLATORS SENTENCED: The military court has sentenced twelve violators of supply law, Al Dustour said. The paper added that the sentences ranged between 1-3 months of imprisonment, the payment of fines, and the confiscation of goods. (J.T.)

KHAYYAT CHAIRS COMMITTEES ON MOSQUES: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat Monday chaired the meeting of the committees of mosques and charitable projects in both Jordan and Kuwait. The meetings dealt with means to facilitate collection of contributions for building mosques and executing charitable projects in Jordan and the occupied Arab territories. (Petra)

NUMBER OF RJ PASSENGERS INCREASE: The total number of passengers who flew Royal Jordanian (RJ) during the first week of July stood at 34,856 compared to 32,270 passengers during the same period last year. The increase amounts to 5.5 per cent. The air freight by RJ during the first week of July was 1,173 tonnes compared to 947 tonnes during the same period last year, an increase of 24 per cent. (Petra)

22,838 TONNES OF PHOSPHATE TRANSPORTED: A total of 22,838 tonnes of phosphate was transported last Saturday from the mines of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company to Aqaba Port and the city's industrial complex. (Petra)

PROJECTS IN TAFLEH: Tafleah Governor Khalaf Maharmeh Monday discussed with the government departments directors in Tafleah service and productive projects that have been carried out. He also stressed the need to carry out further projects in accordance with priorities and the financial capabilities. (Petra)

ASSAD RECEIVES SWAREDDAHAB: Minister of Higher Education and President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research, Al Al Bait Foundation, Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad Monday received Vice chairman of the World Islamic Council's Relief and Development Fund, Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swaredahab. The talks dealt with the council's goals and activities as well as the efforts it exerts in supporting charitable projects. (Petra)

KHLEIFAT LEAVES FOR ROMANIA: Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat Monday left for Romania on an official visit at the invitation of his Romanian counterpart. During the visit, Khleifat will be briefed on Romania's sporting experience and youth facilities. (Petra)

HAMDAN MEETS SWEDISH ENVOY: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Yousef Hamdan Sunday discussed with the Swedish ambassador in Amman means to bolster bilateral relations with regards to protection of the environment. A Swedish delegation of environment experts visited Jordan last year and conducted a study about environment problems in Zarqa. (Petra)

KHAYYAT INSPECTS BEE-BREEDING PROJECTS: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat Sunday visited bee-breeding projects which belong to the ministry in the North Ghor region. Khayyat said that the ministry was always keen to promote agriculture and exploit its lands in the best possible way. He added that the ministry planted vast areas with fruit-bearing trees particularly olive trees and various kinds of fruits in its lands in Hasban, Madaba, Mafraq, Ajloun, Al Kaffarat, Salt, and Ghor. The ministry will shortly plant the best kind of palm trees in Ruweisah, North Ghor and Aqaba, he said.

Committees register over 800,000 voters

AMMAN (Petra) — The registration of names of voters for the coming parliamentary elections expected in November is increasing day-by-day and has indeed exceeded all expectations, according to Mr. Salameh Hammad, head of the Informational Committee on Elections at the Interior Ministry.

In the light of this increase, committees involved in registering names of voters will carry on with their work Friday and also Saturday Aug. 10 and 11 which are public holidays, Hammad said in a statement Monday.

So far more than 800,000 names have been registered in all constituencies and the process is continuing under the supervision of provincial governors, Hammad noted.

Referring to identification papers required for the registration of voters, Hammad said that the family books and identity cards issued by the civil registration department are to be produced by the voters at any of the Interior Ministry centres set up for registration.

But, he added, a voter card will be required for every voter who

can obtain it from the governor's office in his or her constituency.

No photograph will be needed for the cards unless the holder wishes to have one stuck on the card, Hammad added.

According to Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, voters can register to vote in any of the constituencies within the Amman Governorate other than their own provided they obtain prior approval from the governor's office.

The committees embarked on their registration task on Aug. 1 and, according to the law, they have 57 days to complete their work in all constituencies.

Ministry of Interior officials expect that no less than 1.2 million voters will be registered before the deadline expires.

His Majesty King Hussein dis-

solved the Lower House of Parliament on July 30, 1988, a day before the Kingdom broke the legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, half of the members of the House represented the West Bank which had been united with Jordan since 1950.

According to a recent amendment, the total number of the House will be 80.

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh meanwhile visited Salt City Monday and inspected centres set up there for the registration of voters for the coming parliamentary elections.

The minister said that the government was concerned with providing all facilities for a smooth registration process.

Later, the minister met with a number of local citizens and members of committees entrusted with carrying out the registration of voters and heard their views about the whole process.

He said that the ministry hoped that all eligible voters will take part in the coming election.

ACC summit due next month

CAIRO (Petra) — The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries summit meeting due in Sanaa, North Yemen, next month will take further steps to bolster cooperation in education, information, finance, economy, agriculture and culture, according to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saleh was quoted by the Cairo newspaper Al Jumhuriyah as saying that the summit in Sanaa

will be complementary to that held in Alexandria by the four leaders of Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq.

Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat Al Sharif said in a statement earlier that the information ministers of the four ACC member states will sign a protocol in Baghdad next month paving the way for close cooperation among themselves in foreign information services.

The protocol, he said, would also entail provisions for linking the four countries in a microwave network to boost their informational services.

Meanwhile, ACC health ministers, who were holding meetings in the Iraqi capital over the past few days, have concluded their deliberations by signing a protocol of their meetings to pave the way for closer cooperation in health-related fields.

Zarqa project extension officers to attend course in communication

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Zarqa River Basin Project management Monday announced plans for holding a training course for extension officers and managers of the Watershed management units on the subject of communication in cooperation with Yarmouk University.

The head of the project's exten-

sional training division, Mousa Abbadi, said that the training

courses are designed to create qualified staff and to boost the performance and skills of the existing staff in the analysis of problems and constraints in communication that face extension officers when dealing with local, social, cultural, environmental

issues, social marketing and informational questions.

The number of participants said will be 30 engineers, and the training courses will be held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the sponsorship of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Saghyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shamsil.
- ★ A photo exhibition entitled "Bedouin Today" by Japanese photographer Keiji Sato at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamam Thil" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

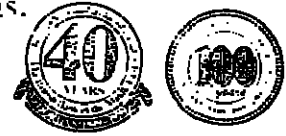
FILM

- ★ The second part of the American Centre's series "The Power Game" under the title "The Pentagon" — 7:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Equal treatment

SHARIF Zaid Ibn Shaker's visit to Al Bashir Hospital Sunday must have been an eye-opener for the prime minister. Those of us who have had to cross town to visit a loved one or a friend there often came back with shocking experiences about the state of affairs in one of Amman's biggest hospitals. And when the prime minister emerged from his field trip to the hospital saying that improvements are called for, he was reflecting the sentiment and feeling of Ammanites who had an occasion to see and feel the inner operation of the hospital in question.

What is even more significant about the prime minister's findings is the fact that he took precious time to investigate first hand one of the busiest health centres in the Kingdom. By so doing Sharif Zaid is portraying a picture of a Jordanian leader who cares very much about the lower income groups in the country and the quality of medical treatment that is provided for them. It so happens that most of the patients of the Bashir Hospital are poor Jordanians who cannot afford the luxury of the other medical centres in Amman. One can be sure that they all are gratified that there is some one out there in the government who really cares about their lot.

This matter leads us to the entire issue of medical services in the country. As long as there are two-tier medical services system in the country, one for the haves and the other for the have nots, the situation at Al Bashir and other similarly deprived medical institutions, would simply fester and proliferate. Perhaps the country's current economic conditions are not opportune to advance a contemporary thesis for medical attention in the country. Nevertheless, the country can begin at least the process of reexamining the existing medical perspectives and orientations whereby a national medical insurance scheme could be established and serviced at all existing hospitals including the private ones. Only under such a modern approach to medical insurance one can attain a system of medical treatment that does not distinguish between Jordanians on the basis of their wealth. If Jordanians are truly equal, then the country should cease and desist from offering sub-standard medical treatment to poor Jordanians as is the case at Al Bashir Hospital and luxury treatment for those who are endowed with material wealth or treaded the road from rags to riches at the expense of Jordan and Jordanians. The motto for medical services in Jordan must be one standard for all.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Monday discussed the U.S. envoy's current visit to the Middle East and the prospects of peace in the region. Al Ra'i daily for its part said that John Kelly's visit represents the first American move in the Middle East arena since President Bush entered the White House. But the paper said that the envoy will no doubt hear in Amman and the other Arab capitals the same tune of peace and will be assured that the Arab World seeks a just and durable peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland. Kelly's visit can be successful depending on Israel's stand and depending on whether the U.S. administration is really concerned with the peace process, the paper noted. It said what King Hussein will tell Kelly will not be different from what the envoy heard in Cairo and will reflect the ideas of the PLO which is supported in all its endeavours by the whole Arab Nation. The Palestinians want peace based on justice and they seek to achieve that goal in the face of Israel's intransigence and with the help of the international community, the paper continued. It said that Kelly's current tour will no doubt offer him the chance to learn about the stands of all concerned parties in the region and it is hoped that the United States will shoulder its international responsibility and help this region to live in peace.

Al Dustour daily for its part said that Jordan is an essential party to the peace process in the Middle East. This is a fact which is recognised by the U.S. administration whose envoy is now touring the Middle East region to sound out the views of its leaders about peace, the paper noted. It said that Jordan which guards the longest confrontation lines with Israel and in view of its historic links with the Palestinian people and its endeavours to help them regain their rights should be given a leading role in any peace process. But, the paper added, the U.S. administration should be reminded of its own responsibility towards peace world-wide in general and the Middle East region in particular. The envoy is certain to acquaint himself with all ideas and the views of the leaders in the Middle East, the paper noted, and it is hoped that this will form a basis for the U.S. administration's next moves to help establish real peace in our region.

Sawt Al Shaab daily dealt with the financial and monetary situation in the Kingdom describing as very wise the recent measures by the Central Bank of Jordan to stabilise the national currency. The paper said that pumping millions of dollars in the local market is bound to bring the dollar's value down against the Jordanian currency, and is bound to offer the necessary mechanism for the import/export process thus facilitating trade and boosting the country's monetary and financial stand. The paper voiced optimism that the Central Bank will eventually control the monetary market in the Kingdom through its continued cooperation with the commercial banks; and it praised the government's parallel measures to control prices and to refer violators to military court to stem any manipulation. The paper said the measures are not only bound to bring back stability to the country but will also foil all conspiracies directed against the Jordanian economy.

Soviet Congress marks shift in power structure

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The end of the new Soviet Congress's first session marked a dramatic five-month period in which workers and upstart politicians aided by Mikhail S. Gorbachev shook the well-oiled Communist machine's stranglehold on power.

Beginning with elections to the Congress of People's Deputies parliament in March, through the July coal miners' strike and the final days of the legislative session that ended Friday, officials who have dominated Soviet life for more than a half-century took an unprecedented bashing.

The party is still undoubtedly the strongest force in society, primarily because it has for decades crushed all potential opposition. Gorbachev's authority is not questioned. But those who traditionally have wielded power only because of their position in the apparatus were left dazed and unsure.

Faced with their first competitive elections, dozens of party members were humiliated by voters. Others were exposed to the fury of miners who can't buy enough soap. A half-dozen were rejected by the Supreme Soviet for cabinet jobs. New deputies criticised Gorbachev, rewrote tax and labour laws, and even suggested that Vladimir I. Lenin be removed from his mausoleum on Red Square and buried.

Deputies "literally burst onto the podium with their platforms, programmes, proposals, accusations," Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov told a high-level party meeting in July. "But the Politburo ended up over on the side, in some kind of isolated state, as if some paralysis syndrome were at work on it."

"A real and mighty power has appeared — the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet. And we cannot refuse to come to grips with it. If the party does not find a way out of this situation, it may lose its influence in running the government," Ryzhkov warned.

It was a small consolation that 85 per cent of the deputies are members of the party. Like never before, they are unconstrained by a strict party line. Former candidate Politburo member Boris N. Yeltsin turned his rocky relationship with the party into a populist campaign against incompetence and special privilege. A week ago several hundred deputies joined him in forming the first organised parliamentary opposition in about 70 years.

Party organisations in the independent-minded Baltic republics are pressing local demands first, and then seeing how they fit Kremlin plans.

Some local leaders not only did nothing to control the coal strikes, they joined in.

Regional officials are pleading with Gorbachev to lay down the law on what it means to be a Communist.

"It's time to clearly determine where is the limit of party and government discipline, and where is pluralism of opinion," Absamat Masaliev, head of the party in the Central Asian Republic Kirghizia, told the party gathering.

"We don't see a hard line on ideological questions," added Leonid F. Bobykin, party leader in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia.

Lev N. Zaikov, party leader in Moscow and a member of the ruling Politburo, said the lack of clear direction has upset many local party organisations. They've reacted by doing nothing.

Since the time of Lenin, a clear purpose and strong organisation have meant power for the Communist Party, even when it was badly outnumbered. For decades officials in the government, party, and semi-official organisation like trade unions, all in solid party standing, have been the glue that held the system together.

Today many of those people are confused and hesitant. "How has this come about — a party organisation consisting of thousands, with its own newspapers, its own professional staff, with everything at its disposal, finds the initiative slipping out of its grasp?" Gorbachev mused.

The way out of the dilemma, he said, is to "eliminate the shortage of something tomorrow, or settle an ecological question or improve transit services."

Instead of handing local officials a detailed party line, he has shown that he even is willing to side with their critics.

It was Gorbachev who master-minded the electoral system that ended up embarrassing dozens of key party officials, including candidate Politburo member Yuri F. Solov'yev, who subsequently retired from his job as Leningrad regional party leader.

The strike by hundreds of thousands of mines reiterated that common people are taking to heart Gorbachev's call to action. This spasm of unrest for the first time was based on something all Soviets have in common — the poor state of the economy.

Gorbachev sympathised with the strikers and promised changes.

Their activity gave Gorbachev a large but intangible victory in his drive to turn more power back to the people. However, that leads to the question at the heart of his reform effort: What will the people do with power if and when they get it?

There is no answer yet to that question. But at least one political scientist, Andronik Migranyan, wonders how long people will allow Gorbachev to lead them against the party apparatus he heads.

Gorbachev "practically found himself two roles: Both Luther and the Pope," Migranyan wrote in the July issue of the respected monthly Novy Mir. "He wants to destroy the existing structures, and at the same time personifies those structures for the public. And certainly, lack of successes which are due to the clumsy function of the party and state structure weaken his role as leader."

Even Politburo members warn that if Gorbachev's authority slips and the party cannot improve its standing, the Soviet Union may spin out of control.

An end to the Communists' hold on absolute power would be "simply deadly," said conservative Yegor K. Ligachev.

Remembering the past — but repeating it

By Robert Bermudes

If George Santayana was correct when he wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," how is it that many Israelis, six million of whose fellow Jews were murdered by the Nazis during World War II, are now fomenting a new holocaust aimed at purging Palestinians from occupied Palestine?

These oppressors of their fellow human beings are descendants of that people whose God once admonished them saying, "Do not ill-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt, you know the heart of the stranger" (Exodus 23:9). Yet these are the people who ask all nations to "remember the holocaust" and prevent such atrocities from ever happening again.

Historically the Jewish people have been persecuted and made to feel like strangers in other lands. They have rejected assimilation in other lands as nothing less than cultural suicide, though curiously, they now advocate assimilation as being appropriate for the Palestinians. The Zionists have laid claim to the promise made by God and now possess part of the land of Palestine. Themselves victims of anti-Semitism and scapegoated, they now argue that they cannot maintain identity, traditions, or culture unless they possess the Land of Zion and there establish a state exclusively for Jews.

Bound by a Covenant with God (in which Jehovah granted the Jews a homeland and security for as long as they were "a blessing to the earth" (Genesis

12), the government of Israel by repeated actions is now scornful both God's Covenant and the moral high ground once achieved by their prophets. Historically committed to seeking mercy, justice, and human dignity for themselves, can modern Jews deny those rights to the Palestinians? On the one hand, world Jewry constantly reminds us of Nazi war crimes against the Jews, while most Israeli Jews remain blind to the fact that the actions of their government against the Palestinians are themselves racist and fascist.

Some Zionists, like Rabbi Kahane, argue that Palestinians are not equally human, that they are ignorant and uncivilised nomads, violent terrorists without conscience: a racist argument, not worth discussing and surely beneath the dignity of most Jews. Or is it possible that centuries of persecution have overwhelmed Israel's capacity for endurance? Are they simply meeting out to the Palestinians what they once themselves suffered at the hands of others? Yet, they must have acquired some scruples involving human rights and justice; they urge us to "remember the holocaust."

Jewish leaders Irving Howe and Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg believe that for many American Jews Israel is "an invention of their hopes and dreams for it," rather than a reality. For that reason, it is difficult for them to face the realities of the present conflict. At the same time within Israel they see "a paranoia, a sense of insecurity, of vulnerability, that makes Israelis less aware of the moral failures involved in

Israeli policy." Among Jews in the U.S. and in Israel there is a strong movement to avoid bearing the truth about what is going on in Palestine. Hertzberg emphasises that American Jewry "is terribly loyal to Israel. But it is loyal to the Israel it wants to imagine as liberal, democratic, and nice."

The nourishing of selective awareness

Those humans who do not acknowledge a "dark side" which makes them capable of atrocities are wearing blinkers. Stanley Milgram's study, Obedience to Authority, has demonstrated experimentally that when people can pass the responsibility for their evil over to "responsible" authority figures who command them to do violence, most will do it.

Hans Askenasy spent years under Nazi persecution. Based on Milgram's studies he has concluded that the Nazis were neither madmen, sadists, nor monsters. Indeed, most of the defendants at the Nuremberg trials were certified as normal by a team of psychiatrists. Eichmann's lawyer characterised his client's personality as that of a "common mailman." Today many people are convinced the Nazis were a special breed of madmen. Israel's present leadership, and many other Jews remember the holocaust not so much for society's moral passivity under evil leadership, as for flagrant "Nazi evil" contrasted to "Jewish innocence and goodness." The danger in drawing this line between Jewish innocence and Nazi evil is that it places the responsibility for the holocaust's atrocities upon a spe-

cial breed of maniacs. Because we humans have a natural predisposition to think of ourselves as good and moral we deny our tremendous potential for evil. This one-sided identification with good creates moral blindness. In turn, this blindness becomes especially easy to justify when there is some clearly identifiable "monster" upon whom we can, with smug assurance, heap the blame.

The more the Israelis occupy Palestine perceive themselves as the persecuted "good guys", the chosen people of God, the more we can expect them to focus propaganda on the suffering and persecution, goodness and innocence of Jews around the world, and to cast into roles of pernicious, sadistic, "anti-Semitic" and "terrorist," all groups not in concert with them.

When we deny our dark side we grant it permission to secretly feed upon itself until it can no longer be contained and its violent energy is then unleashed into an eruption of evil. In Palestine today we are now witnessing, on a limited scale, just such an explosion. Anger and dark or hostile feelings cannot be denied and suppressed for long. We must recognize the dangerous potential of our "dark side." Of itself it is not sinful or criminal or something shameful. It is natural. It is part of the human condition. But it becomes destructive only when it is mixed with complacency.

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bermudes is senior minister of the Irondequoit United Church of Christ, Rochester, N.Y. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

LETTERS

To whom it may concern

To the Editor:

WE HAVE been led to believe that to export is to survive.

Would somebody please tell me how one is to survive, even locally, if funds (ie dollars) are unavailable for importing the raw material necessary to produce the goods for export or indeed, the local market.

I have a factory in Sahab that has been standing empty for the last six months, due to the fact that dollars in Jordan are apparently non-existent (unless

of course one happens to be one of those rare breeds with unlimited or even limited, wasta, or one is prepared to pay exorbitant rates of exchange on the black market, which in turn renders the finished product cost ineffective.

The same applies to sterling or the Deutsch marks for machinery and special stains and varnishes specified by the European Community.

My supplier of raw materials telex and fax machines have prac-

tically blown their fuses with the rapid delivery of repeated requests to open L/C's, as the last quoted prices were about to be increased. I cannot bring myself to explain that the delaying tactics are due to dollar bankruptcy as this will cause loss of confidence in Jordan, and therefore me.

Through my strenuous and exhausting efforts I have managed to secure very healthy orders from the U.K. (and after 1992, automatically the whole of

Europe) if I can guarantee a continuous supply of products with reliable delivery times (crucial conditions for dealing successfully with Europe).

However, if the Central Bank or any other bank for that matter, is hard pressed to find even \$10,000, it does not bode well for the industrial future of Jordan or indeed me.

Sheila Haddad
Amman

Killing streets revisited

DRIVING in Amman is as if one is in an uncalled for rat-race. Every driver has his own destination that whether is near or far has to be reached in seconds. Rules, regulations or even simple but very important ethics are completely neglected.

Drivers at intersections do not bother to stop not even for a second or even a blink. One is not talking about a complete stop, which should be the case. But just a brief slow down to make sure that other roads are clear of traffic. But even that is not applied here.

When one travels abroad to a country where rules are followed, either voluntarily or by obligation, one seems to press his foot on an imaginative break in front of him at every intersection for fear of the other car taking his right of way. But nothing happens. Every one goes his own way after stopping completely at the stop sign.

Of course this is only one part of the "hogging" experience one

gets while driving in Amman. If you are following the rules while making a left turn at a traffic light, the probability is that the driver in front of you will drive his car straight ahead, while the one at your right is going in your direction completely ignoring the fact that you have been patiently waiting in line to make your turn. He takes the right of all the waiting cars, makes a turn, blocks the traffic because the side street is small and probably causes an accident because he just decides to make a U turn at the last moment. Of course, you turn a deaf ear to all the cars behind you who start honking the instant the light turns orange.

On many occasions I would stop by a driver double-parking in a small street and gently ask him to move. He would say: "What do you want me to do? Wait for the traffic." Flabbergasted, and yet still politely I ask him to park somewhere else because he is the one who is blocking the traffic and he answers: "I don't feel like

parking in a distant place and walking a long way." By then my temper has reached its peak so I challenge him by saying "Share dar abouk? (Is it your father's street?) Nonchalantly and with a loud and menacing voice he says: "Yes."

I remember driving down Wadi Seer road when a car coming out of the Burj building was pulling out of the park. Seeing him from a distance, the driver kept on edging slowly to get some space. For his car as the other cars were streaming down the street. Imagining how he might have felt I stopped for him to get out onto the road. At the side walk there was a sign for motorists not to take the left lane as it is a very busy street. Well, the man pulled up his car, drove past me, and went straight into the opposite lane causing a car to pull a loud break and drove up. The amazing thing is that a traffic policeman was standing next to the exit of the parking lot. He actually saw the car move in the opposite

direction. He did not move. He did not even whistle.

Something should be done. There should be stop signs at road intersections. There should be a fine for motorists crossing them without stopping to see the traffic on the road. The traffic police should fine or re-direct motorists double-parking at traffic lights.

I am sure there are other "shoulds" to take care of the nerve-wrecking experience of driving in Amman. But until somebody listens, motorists do not really have to follow the rules and regulations they learnt at driving schools. They have to drive expecting the worst at every turn. Indeed they have to beware of other motorists all the time. It seems it is not enough to fight the day to day battle of survival. When you are on the road in Amman you have to battle for your life in the ongoing race that has no start and no end.

Norma Shalhoub

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مكتبة الأمل

Private companies cash in on the space race

By Clare Pedrick

NEW YORK — Twenty years after Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon, the U.S. is turning its attention to the next giant step for mankind — the privatisation of space.

Already, the government's Department of Transportation has given the green light for 23 privately-launched space-shots between now and the end of 1992. Companies ranging from the giant weapons and aeronautics group Martin Marietta to the tiny Houston-based Space Services Inc. are gearing up to cash in on fledgling industry which some experts predict could reap billions of dollars in revenue by the turn of the century.

The market they are hoping to tap has been created by the huge boom in the satellite business. All over the globe, countries from both the developed and the developing world are sending up satellites for uses as varied as telephone links, weather forecasting, television broadcasting and crop monitoring.

At present, Europe dominates the launching industry with its Ariane rockets built by the 13-member consortium, the European Space Agency (ESA). The U.S. is hoping to challenge that supremacy by becoming the first country ever to turn the space business over to the private sector.

Said Mark Daniels, director of engineering at Space Services Inc.: "It's a time of great excitement. It is still a business that is very much in its infancy and we are in on it at the beginning." The private launching industry is a legacy of former President Ronald Reagan who paved the way by banning commercial payloads from the government-owned National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shuttle in an effort to bring independent rocket-makers into the arena. He called on NASA to buy commercial goods and space services and even forced it to set up an Office of Commercial Programmes to work with industry on space projects. Earlier this year, Reagan's successor President George Bush promised to honour that commitment to privatisation, in spite of what he described as

"some reluctance" in certain quarters of NASA. "My role will be to tell the bureaucracy, NASA, that we want to encourage privatisation," he told reporters.

Shaky start

The race to cash in on the ending of the government monopoly got off to a shaky start. In June this year, the scheduled launching of the Indian telecommunications satellite In-1D had to be aborted after an accident on the pad at Cape Canaveral in Florida. McDonnell-Douglas, whose Delta-2 rocket was to have lifted the \$50 million satellite into orbit, would have been the first ever private company to blast a satellite in space.

According to officials at the Huntington Beach, California corporation — one of three major U.S. firms to have been given a rocket-launching licence — lift-off will take place at a later date, probably before the end of this year. Meanwhile the company's order-book is filling up nicely, with nine contracts, worth \$400 million, for commercial launches through 1991.

Among its customers is the London-based consortium British Satellite Broadcasting which aims to send up two satellites — one this Fall and another next year — to give the U.K. its first ever direct broadcasting service. The satellites will beam four new channels into British homes equipped with receiver dishes, say officials.

Another client is NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) which has commissioned McDonnell-Douglas to launch a communications satellite next year. The Indonesian government has placed an order for the launching of three "Palapa" satellites early in 1990. The "Palapas" will be equipped for high-speed data transmission as well as telephone and television signals throughout many of Indonesia's 3,000 inhabited islands.

At the other end of the scale, Space Services Inc., with a tiny staff of just 20 people, has become the first private company to venture into the small launch vehicle business, an area predicted to provide rich pickings in the future.

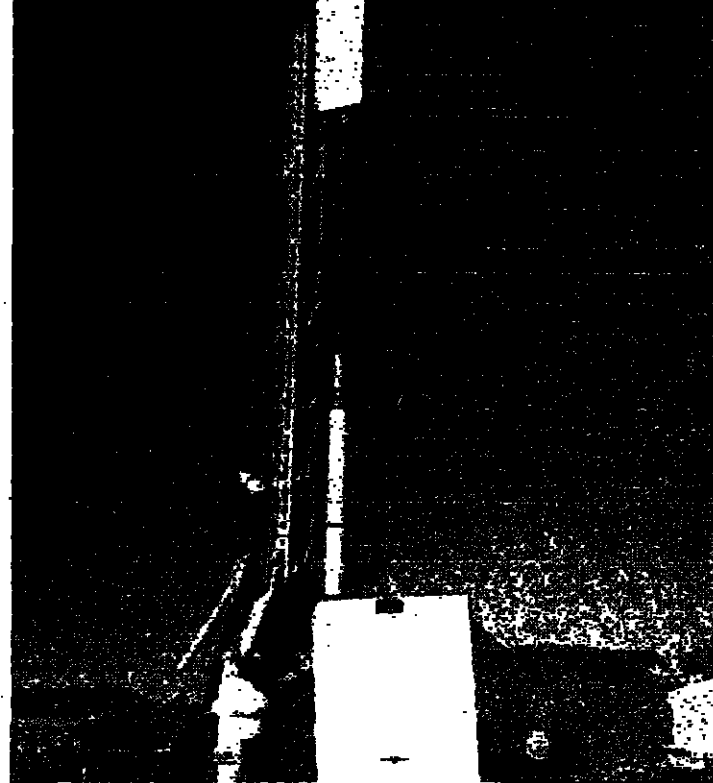
"Our Comestoga launch vehicle is not on a part with those of the big three American companies, (McDonnell Douglas, Martin Marietta and General Dynamics Corp.) nor with the Ariane or the Japanese, but at the moment no other country in the world has a small launch vehicle so there is a void in the market," said engineering director Mark Daniels. "We're concentrating on the launching of space experiments and of small satellites. There's a lot of interest in this size satellite in Europe and also in the Third World, where there is a big potential, mainly because they are not likely to have the funds to start up their own programmes."

First private rocket

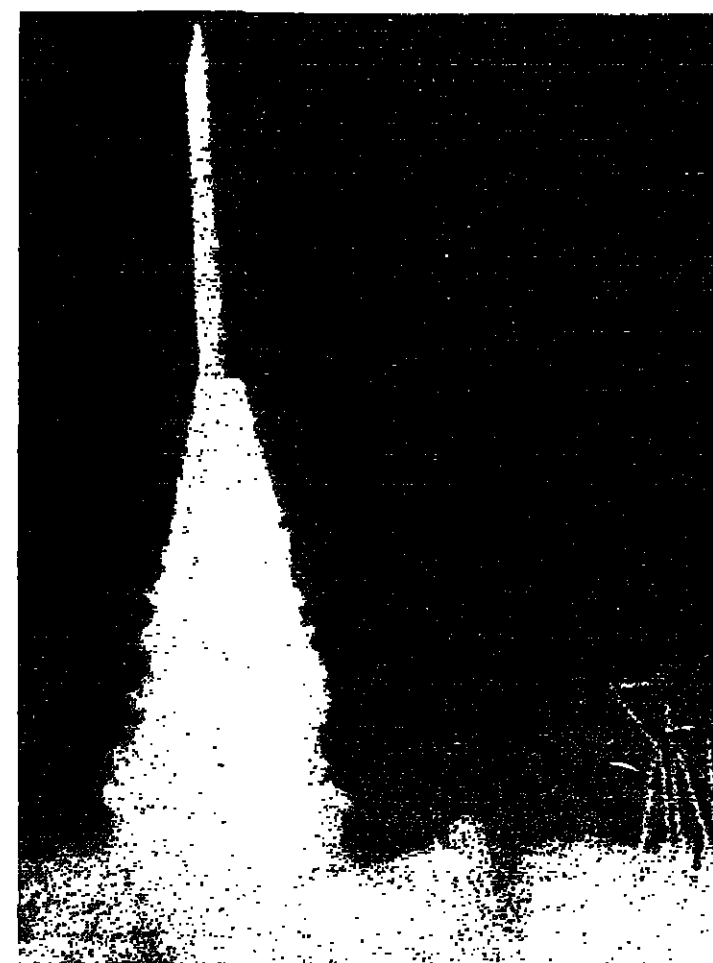
In March, SSI's Starfire 1 became the first private rocket to take a paying customer when it soared into space on a flight lasting 15 minutes. Its payload was a batch of scientific experiments designed to study the short-term effect of weightlessness on industrial processes — experts predict that firms will eventually be able to manufacture products in space factories. The \$1 million tab for the launch was picked up by NASA which, as a result of government pressure, has begun sponsoring commercial programmes with annual grants to consortiums of university departments and private businesses wanting to send up experiments to conduct research in space.

The success of the Starfire flight was widely seen as proof that private industry can launch a rocket safely. A further nine commercial launches are due to take place before the end of the year, say officials at the Department of Transportation.

"The private launching industry is taking off because we can do it more cheaply and we can do it faster than NASA can," said Daniels. "We can do it more cheaply because they take three times as long as we do, and secondly they use a lot more people than we do. Our staff on the sounding rocket launch in March was just twenty people. NASA would probably have used more than twice that number." President Bush's recent (July)



Space Service Inc.'s Starfire 1 rocket blasts off from White Sands, New Mexico. On board is a batch of scientific experiments which could help firms plan how to manufacture products in space.



Space Service Inc.'s Starfire 1 which in March became the first private rocket to take a paying customer. (WNL)

Long absence

announcement of plans to set up a base on the Moon and to send a manned mission to Mars will also have repercussions for the private sector. At SSI, whose president is former astronaut Donald Slayton, scientists have already begun working on projects linked with the missions, including a \$900 million space-station for NASA. The station, which could be launched as early as 1994, would act as a complement to the larger \$30 billion NASA-built Freedom station and would be used for experiments in space-manufacturing — an area likely to be of vital importance in preparing for the manned space-shot to Mars, scheduled for early in the 21st century.

The Denver-based Martin Marietta aeronautics group, whose Titan 3 rocket is the world's largest commercially available launch vehicle, is currently negotiating with NASA to send up the unmanned Mars Observer Mission, scheduled for 1992. If the deal goes through it will be the first commercial launch of a NASA planetary probe.

The U.S.'s re-entry into the space race comes after a long absence from the field. Pressure to halt high-cost space exploration came to a head in 1986 when the Challenger shuttle exploded in 1986 killing all seven astronauts on board. Said Ed Browne, president of Martin Marietta Commercial Titan Inc: "I think it was time for the U.S. to return to space. We have seen ourselves absent from the arena, while the Russians and others have continued to explore space. For us at Martin Marietta, one of the most exciting things about privatisation is seeing the resurgence of planetary explorations out of NASA and the fact that they will be using commercial vehicles to launch them."

Back in the field of satellite launches, the Martin Marietta group's immediate clients include Japan, the British Ministry of Defence and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (Intelsat), a co-operative of 110 member-nations

which sets up communications satellite systems world-wide.

The grounding of the U.S. space programme in the two-year period following the Challenger disaster forced many American satellite owners to look elsewhere for a ride into space. Europe picked up a lot of the extra business and today officials at Martin Marietta see the ESA launch programmes as its major competitor. The European consortium's Ariane rockets currently account for about half of all commercial satellite launches.

"There could also be ambitions on the part of the Russians and potentially the Japanese, with the H2 rocket they are developing," said Browne. "In addition, we were in competition with the Chinese until their licence to launch U.S.-made satellites was suspended (following reprisals against the student uprising in Tiananmen Square)."

At the lower end of the market, staff at SSI are already seeing a huge upturn in the number of home-grown competitors.

"So far, launching licences have only been given to a handful of U.S. companies, but there are many others who are trying to get into the business, especially the small launch vehicle sector," said Daniels. "When we first started in 1982 we were the only ones in this area of the industry. Now there are at least half a dozen, so we have a lot more competition."

In spite of the mushrooming of so many rivals, SSI remains confident it can maintain its hold on the small satellite market.

Said Daniels: "Most of these new companies will not make it, partly because it requires a great deal of money to develop a launch vehicle and partly because the key to this business is getting your vehicle flown so that it can establish a track record. Getting your vehicle flown helps reduce insurance quotes and gives customers confidence that their payload will get into orbit without any problems. Once you have a good track record, the sky is the limit" — World News link.

Death in space

By Harry F. Rosenthal
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States must be prepared to accept the likelihood that more astronauts will be killed if space missions become routine, according to a report submitted to Congress on Aug. 2.

"If such risks are perceived to be too high, the nation may decide to reduce its emphasis on placing humans in space," said the report by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

Space shuttle reliability to date, with one catastrophic failure in 29 launches — the 1986 explosion of Challenger — is 96.5 per cent and a contractor estimated last year that a representative chance of mission success is 98 per cent.

Chancellor exploded 73 seconds after take-off on Jan. 28, 1986, killing all seven crew members and grounding the U.S. space programme for more than two years.

The price of increased space activity includes "the likelihood that loss of life will occur," the report said.

"If reliability is and remains 98 per cent, there would be a 50 per cent chance of losing an orbiter on the next 34 flights, a 72 per cent chance of losing an orbiter before the first space station assembly flight and an 88 per cent chance of losing an orbiter before space station assembly is completed 42 flights later," the report said.

Current plans call for all hardware for the planned space station to be carried into orbit in shuttle cargo holds, along with astronauts who will assemble the parts in space. Engineers have been talking, though, of reducing the number of shuttle missions by carrying parts into orbit on heavy-duty rockets.

After the Challenger explosion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was left with a three-orbiter fleet: Columbia — the shuttle that is scheduled to fly next week on a military mission — Discovery and Atlantis. A replacement for Challenger, named the endeavour, is expected to be ready for flight in 1992 and a year later NASA expects to reach a flight rate of 14 missions a year.

The Technology Assessment Agency said one more orbiter, costing \$2.5 billion, is needed and a decision to have it ready by 1996 would have to be made in the fiscal year that begins in October.

"Continued dependence on only four orbiters could be risky," said the report. "Launching each orbiter three or four times every year, creates a growing cumulative risk of accidents or 'wear out,' supporting the space station in addition to other crew-related missions would be difficult if not impossible with fewer than four orbiters."

The report, called "Round Trip to Orbit: Human Space Flight Alternatives," examines some of the policy choices Congress faces in decisions that must be made this year or next.

If Congress wants to reduce risks to the shuttle fleet during assembly of the space station, the report said, it could direct NASA to buy Titan 4 launch vehicles or develop a so-called shuttle-C launch vehicle, which would use shuttle booster rockets and fuel tank to orbit a huge cargo container.

The report also laid out options to advance U.S. crew-carrying capabilities beyond the shuttle era into the next century. They include an advanced manned launch system leading to an advanced shuttle-like vehicle and a personnel launch system, which could dispatch a crew-carrying vehicle from unpiloted launch rockets.

An aerospace plane, able to take off from a runway and fly to orbit, would be a major step forward, the report said, but would be much more expensive and a larger technical challenge.

One section of the report addresses contingencies requiring the emergency escape or rescue of astronauts.

Low ozone level over southern Australia

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Antarctic "ozone hole" apparently caused record low ozone levels over southern Australia in 1987, said scientists, who suggested that the hole may raise skin cancer risk in the globe's southern latitudes.

The work is the first detailed study that links the Antarctic hole to observed ozone declines in the southern hemisphere's mid-latitudes, where many people live, scientists said.

The study concludes that record low ozone levels over southern Australia and New Zealand were caused mainly by the arrival of ozone-poor air from the Antarctic hole.

Southern South America and the southern tip of Africa also may be vulnerable, said study co-author R. Alan Plumb.

A layer of ozone, a form of oxygen, high in the atmosphere shields earth from ultraviolet rays in sunlight that cause skin cancer. Reductions in ozone let more rays through and can boost skin cancer rates.

The Antarctic ozone hole, which appears for a limited time every year, is an area in which up to 50 per cent of ozone disappears.

Plumb said that while he regards the declines observed over Australia and New Zealand as relatively small, they could become more hazardous.

But Margaret Kripke, an immunologist who studies skin cancer, said the increase in ultraviolet rays implied by the ozone observations is "enormous." Such increases could raise the risk of skin cancer, but it is difficult to say by how much, said Kripke, chairman of the immunology department at M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre of the University of Texas.

Protection of the worldwide ozone shield has become a focus of international concern that extends beyond the Antarctic ozone hole. Last year, for example, scientists announced evidence that ozone had declined about 2.3 per cent since 1969 over a region that includes most of the United States.

In May, delegates from 81 countries at a U.N. conference pledged to stop producing and using chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons, which destroy ozone, by the year 2000.

The new study was conducted by Plumb of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, Paul Newman, of the Universities Space Research Association and a visiting scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight centre in Greenbelt, Maryland; and researchers from Australia and New Zealand.

It appeared in the last issue of the British journal Nature.

"It makes a convincing case to me," commented William Manikin of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

The Antarctic ozone hole was unusual in 1987, the study said. Ozone levels reached record lows in October and November, and the funnel-shaped wind pattern that sustained the hole disintegrated in early December rather than November.

With the disintegration of the wind pattern each year, streams of polar air are ripped away and migrate north, the researchers said.

They concluded that the arrival of such ozone-poor air was the chief factor in producing record low ozone levels over southern Australia and New Zealand in December 1987.

The levels reported over the Australian cities Melbourne and Perth for much of the month were the lowest December readings since measurements began in 1979.

The Melbourne readings averaged about 7 per cent below normal for the month, which theoretically could boost the dose of ultraviolet rays at the earth's surface by 14 per cent, Plumb said.

Newman said Australians are typically on the beaches in December, the start of summer in the southern hemisphere. As a result, low ozone readings during that month are particularly worrisome.

For the most common skin cancers, which develop only after decades of exposure to ultraviolet rays, a single episode of ozone reduction may not have much effect, said Kripke.

But reductions would pose a hazard if they continue for another decade or so, she said.

Some recent studies suggest that the risk of the deadliest skin cancer, melanoma, may be increased by a single exposure to excess ultraviolet rays, Kripke noted. But too little is known about the causes of melanoma to gauge the risk of a single summer's exposure, she said.

German supersonic

HAMBURG (DPA) — West Germany's Ministry of Research has given the green light for funding a study on a still highly questionable, yet potentially the most promising, aerospace technology for manned space flight in the 21st Century.

The project: to develop a hypersonic craft which could be used to boost payloads into space, but be reusable many times over, thus cutting costs. Moreover, the space vehicle, navigable like any jet airplane, could take off from and land at any conventional airport.

Bonn recently earmarked 400 million marks (\$210 million) for the initial feasibility studies into a hypersonic vehicle which is already on the drawing boards of the Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, (MBB) aerospace firm.

It is called the "Saenger" Spacecraft, named after the man who initially proposed the hypersonic concept, rocketry pioneer Eugen Saenger. A colleague of Werner von Braun, Saenger prior to his death in 1964 had strongly urged development of a hypersonic vehicle.

Beyond the significance of the technology itself, the weekly magazine Der Spiegel noted, is the fact that the Saenger study approved by Bonn is the first space venture of purely West German origin.

The West Germans have key supporting roles in such European aerospace initiatives as the "Ariane" rocket, the "Hermes" space shuttle set for missions in the 1990s, and the "Columbus" space laboratory but those projects are chiefly led by France. The Saenger spacecraft, on the

other hand, is a German initiative.

The only other nation which has seriously undertaken hypersonic flight research and development is the United States, which has a "National Aerospace Plane," or Nasp, on the drawing boards. The U.S. has kept tight wraps on the results of its research — which so far has cost some \$3 billion.

At MBB, the Saenger spacecraft now on the drawing boards is a 90-metre-long, super-sleek vehicle which would carry, piggy-back style, the European Space Agency's (ESA) future shuttles. The combined weight of the Saenger and its payload would be as much as 350 tons.

The way MBB's aerospace director Ernst Hoegenauer describes the concept, the Saenger spacecraft first achieves Mach-1, or the speed of sound at over 1,100 kilometres per hour, using hydrogen fuel-powered turbo-fan jet engines.

Then, the spacecraft's powerful "ramjets" would take charge. They differ from normal jet engines in that they need no compressors, the speed already achieved alone being sufficient to "ram" the air into the engines' combustion chambers at the high compression necessary to develop their super thrust.

These ramjets would hurl the Saenger vehicle into the upper reaches of the atmosphere at 6.8 Mach, or some 7,500 kph. From there, the payload — either a manned shuttle or an unmanned supply spacecraft — would be sent on its way using its own rocket power to reach orbit.

Advocates of the Saenger



Model: An artist's conception of the Saenger, the space launch vehicle proposed by West Germany, carries a space shuttle piggy-back on its way toward orbit.

argue that it would provide a cheaper method of putting payloads into space.

West German Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber said the vehicle could be used around 150 times. Potentially, the Saenger could carry payloads at only one-quarter of the current U.S. space shuttle programme costs of \$8,000 per kilogram.

While Riesenhuber argues strongly for the Saenger project, saying it would provide a "far-

reaching technology boost" to West German industry, media reports on the project are more skeptical.

Der Spiegel notes that so far, the key element, the "ramjet," exists only on paper and suggested that the Research Ministry was getting carried away by a few "hand-painted design sketches."

The daily Die Welt in a report from the recent International Aero-Salon in Paris, cited off-

icials as saying that development of a hypersonic aircraft would run into the "double-digit billions of dollars."

Therefore, being "unaffordable for individual nations," the project would require an international effort.

The newspaper reported that the Saenger project has attracted the interest of both the United States and the Soviet Union as well as several other nations.

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1) REVENGE OF NARDS "PART II"
3:30, 10:35 p.m.

2) AL MAWLED (Arabic)
12:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

مكتبة الأمل

Tunisian central bank seeks more liberalisation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's central bank, in its annual report to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, backed economic liberalisation and urged quick action to reduce the cost of subsidies on basic foodstuffs.

Central Bank Governor Ismail Khelil, Ibn Ali's main economic adviser, said the government would have to remove more price controls, encourage foreign investment and sell non-strategic public sector companies to the private sector.

"Under present circumstances, the strategy based on opening up to the outside world is the only way forward," he said in his introduction to the report.

Khelil, who has a reputation as the main force behind liberalisation, said urgent priorities were to create more jobs, curb inflation and cut the budget deficit by restricting food subsidies to those who need them.

Food subsidies are a sensitive subject in Tunisia, where 89 people were killed in 1984 in riots against higher bread prices.

The government, which spends a quarter of its current budget on bread, wheat, sugar and cooking oil, has recently been dropping hints that it is about to tackle the problem seriously.

"Subsidies must be suitably targeted towards the social group which is economically

weak," Khelil said. "Any delay in carrying out this process, for whatever reason, will only worsen the imbalance and make the inevitable adjustment more painful."

Tunisia has already taken some steps towards liberalisation, especially in reducing customs duties on raw materials and capital goods, but two years of drought have held up the process by limiting the government's margin of manoeuvre.

Khelil said that on price controls for industrial products for example, "the process of liberalisation must go ahead with greater speed to reach progressively all products."

On privatisation, he was more cautious, saying it should proceed "at the necessary speed and in line with a timetable known to all the parties concerned."

"Bringing in the private sector to run public enterprises is not an easy matter. Its success depends mainly on careful treatment of surplus manpower," he added.

Privatisation should not add to unemployment, which remained static at around 15 per cent of the

workforce in 1988, he said.

The government has been promising to speed up privatisation for the past two years but the drought, by increasing rural unemployment, has held up the process.

The report warned the domestic inflation could hit the competitiveness of Tunisian exports so, unless productivity kept pace, the bank would have to devalue the dinar.

Khelil has already supervised a gradual devaluation of the dinar to the current level of about \$1.06. Two years ago it was worth \$1.20.

On Tunisia's foreign debt, which cost \$923 million (about \$1 billion) to service in 1988, the central bank governor suggested pressing creditor governments to waive repayment and looking at various debt instruments available on the international money markets.

Economic growth in 1988 was 1.6 per cent, against previous estimates of 1.5 per cent and 5.8 in 1987, the report said.

The main reason for this low growth was the drought, which cut output in agriculture by 24 per cent.

Khelil lamented the decline in investment from abroad but proposed only "a coherent national strategy" to reverse it.



Tunisians line up outside one of the few bakeries open recently as the others staged a one-day strike in protest at shrinking profit margins. The government spends a quarter of its current budget subsidising bread, wheat, sugar and cooking oil.

GFCC's Salt meeting to discuss economic situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (GFCC) will hold an executive council meeting in Salt Thursday to discuss activities by Jordanian chambers over the past three months and efforts to help deal with the current economic situation in the Kingdom.

A federation spokesman said that the executive council will also deal with matters related to the encouragement of investments in Jordan and the participa-

tion of conferences and seminars on trade which would be held in Arab and foreign countries.

A report to be read out at the meeting in Salt will outline the general economic conditions in the country, the prospect of reopening the moneychangers offices, matters related to certificates of origin for various imported commodities, the possibility of setting up an industrial commercial exhibition in Jordanian governorates and the creation of a trade patent office.

An informational campaign to increase the Jordanian people's investments in industry and encouraging people to buy more Jordanian products are among the other topics to be reviewed, the spokesman added.

According to the spokesman, stimulating the role of chambers of commerce and involving them in economic and investment policy-making in Jordan, the establishment of a national data bank to be linked with similar banks worldwide to provide information

about world trade and a projected Arab-Argentine trade exhibition to be opened in Buenos Aires will also be reviewed.

The council held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Mohammad Asfour during which matters related to trade in relation to the private and public sectors were discussed. The council examined means of helping the government to deal with the unemployment problem and Jordan's participation in a number of international trade fairs.

Ministry announces drop in value of import licences

AMMAN (Petra) — The total value of import licences issued by the Ministry of Industry to local merchants in the first half of 1989 registered a drop by JD 34 million over the value of licences in the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade Monday.

A ministry spokesman said that

licences issued in the first half of 1989 were worth JD 332 million, against JD 365 million in the same period of 1988.

The decline in imports is a very positive phenomenon and is in line with the government's plans to reduce imports and save foreign currency to replenish the

Kingdom's reserves of foreign exchange, the official said.

He added that the drop in imports comes at a time when the local financial markets witness a rise in the exchange rates of the United States dollar.

According to the official most of the import licences issued in the first half of this year were for

chemical products, pharmaceuticals, tea, cereals, iron ore, aluminium, machines and electrical equipment.

"These commodities," he said, "are deemed necessary for the national industry and increasing national production."

1st U.S. sorghum shipment arrives in Aqaba

AMMAN (USIS) — The first 50,000 ton shipment of yellow sorghum, allocated from surplus U.S. stocks, is being unloaded in Aqaba this week.

The United States granted Jordan the sorghum worth \$27 million for use as animal feed in a move aimed at saving the Kingdom scarce foreign exchange.

The Ministry of Supply is scheduling the remainder of the five shipments which will bring a total of 236,000 tons of the feed grain into Jordan through the Aqaba Port.

"The grain grant provides the government of Jordan with direct foreign exchange benefit," explained Ambassador Roscoe Sud-

darth. The Ministry of Supply plans to sell the sorghum to local wholesalers and retailers as a substitute for higher-priced imported corn.

The proceeds of the sale will go primarily to developments activities including land and soil protection, agricultural training, and

irrigation projects, programmed by the Ministry of Planning and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

U.S. assistance to Jordan for 1989 totals over \$47 million, a USAID housing guarantee of \$35 million, agricultural commodities credits of \$85 million, and other assistance.

15 states hit by U.S. phone workers strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — Strikes by 157,000 telephone workers in 15 states and the nation's capital threatened to slow operator and directory assistance and delay installations and repairs Monday as the walkouts entered their first work week.

Strikes against three regional phone companies began Sunday. With no new negotiations sche-

duled, they threatened to disrupt service in many of the nation's major business hubs, including New York, San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Informal talks were expected to resume Monday, and resumption of formal bargaining with all three companies hinged on those discussions.

On strike were operators, technicians, sales, clerical, factory and other workers at Nynex Corp., Bell Atlantic Corp. and Pacific Telesis Corp. Spared phone strikes were nine states in the southeast served by BellSouth, which reached a tentative agreement with the Communications Workers of America late Saturday.

Consumers dialing directly to the number they wish should notice little difference in their service but those needing operator assistance faced some delays Sunday. The situation was likely to worsen as call volume increased with the start of the work week.

Spokesmen for the companies said repairs and installations also could be stalled as managers try to fill in for strikers.

Three more regional phone companies face strike deadlines next Saturday. Those companies, Ameritech, U.S. West and Southwestern Bell, have 131,000 union workers and provide service in 24 states.

Of the strikes that began Sunday the situation at Nynex appeared the most contentious.

Mideast oil prices stay at 6-month low

By Jennie Kantyka
Reuters

TOKYO — A barrel of Middle East benchmark oil from Dubai was worth around \$14 Monday, its lowest level for six months, and oil experts said it will fall even lower before winter demand props up the market.

They said that with output from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rising monthly, prices would have fallen faster and further, without the tension caused by the Lebanese hostage crisis, and hurricanes which temporarily disrupted production in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The market was propped up last week by the hostage crisis," said an official at a major oil company. "The fundamentals that were stopped in their tracks last week will take full rein again now."

"It's going down another 30 cents in the short term," said an international oil trader. "There's no supporting factor at the moment."

Cargoes from Oman, which last month commanded a 25-cent-a-barrel premium to the official price, are now offered at a discount of at least 10 cents as traders try to sell to satiated refiners. Traders said oil prices should rebound with seasonal demand in the fourth quarter but only if OPEC can curb its rising production.

NEWS ANALYSIS

OPEC oil output has steadily increased throughout this year. According to a Reuters survey, production hit 21.5 million barrels per day (BPD) in July despite a June OPEC agreement to limit output to 19.5 million in the second half of the year.

"When we asked the producers to supply more oil a month ago, all the countries accepted," said Masaru Kai, general manager of Nippon Oil Company's Petroleum Supply Department.

"So we forecast an oversupply situation very soon and expected the market would go down."

At the June OPEC meeting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait both rejected their allocated production quotas of 1.041 million and 1.093 million BPD respectively, but said they would try to limit output to 1.35 million.

The Reuters survey estimated they each produced around 1.3 million BPD in July.

Far East oil traders expect the market to remain weak for at least the next month as regional requirements are almost fully covered through the end of September.

"We expect the next turning point for the market to be on or around the next OPEC meeting," said Hideo Ito, general manager of Mitsui and Company's Crude Oil Division.

"At this time there could be upward moves but it totally depends on what the ministers agree," he said.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

'Iranian oil exports fall 19% in July'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's crude oil exports fell 19 per cent during July, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said. The Nicosia-based newsletter said crude exports were 1.78 million barrels per day (BPD) in July, down from 2.2 million in June. Iran's current OPEC quota is 2.783 million BPD. MEES estimated that Iran was using 750,000 BPD for its domestic refineries, resulting in total oil production of 2.53 million BPD. It put June production at 2.95 million BPD.

Kuwaiti oil minister holds talks in Qatar

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah had talks with Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha Monday. The Qatari News Agency said Sheikh Ali delivered a message to Sheikh Khalifa from Kuwait ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the situation in the Middle East. It gave no further details. Kuwait and Qatar are members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Governor of S. African Central Bank dies

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The governor of the South African Central Bank, Gerard De Kock, has died, state-run radio said Monday. He was 63. De Kock, known as Apartheid's banker, had announced his resignation in June on health grounds. He suffered from cancer. Chris Stals, South Africa's director-general of finance, the top treasury post, was due to take over as head of the Central Bank on Nov. 1. Radio South Africa said De Kock died suddenly early Monday. The scholarly, urbane De Kock was credited with masterminding a 1987 debt rescheduling pact that offered South Africa an economic lifeline after foreign banks cut off credit lines two years before because of mounting black anti-apartheid unrest. The banks' decision prompted Pretoria to impose a partial moratorium on repayments of its total \$24-billion foreign debt.

Lufthansa to fly to Leipzig

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lufthansa will start scheduled services as of Aug. 10, 1989 to Leipzig, thus inaugurating a regular air service between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. During the Leipzig Fair from Sept. 3 to 9, Lufthansa will fly this route twice a day with an Airbus to meet the additional demand in traffic. The route Leipzig — Düsseldorf is flown by Interflug, the airline of the German Democratic Republic, initially once a week.

Polish postal strike ends

WARSAW (AP) — Workers ended a three-day postal strike in the southern province of Legnica, while scattered work stoppages continued in other parts of Poland, official and independent media have said. The situation in the transport industry remained "uncertain," said the announcer on the evening state television news programme Sunday. Rail stoppages Saturday in the southern region of Silesia idled about 80 passenger and freight trains, state media reported. Workers threatened a general rail strike if their demand for an 80,000 zlotys (\$96) monthly is not met. They now earn about 50,000 zlotys (\$60) a month. State television said postal workers in Legnica province, which was about 500,000 inhabitants signed an agreement with management Sunday, but gave no details. The postal workers had demanded pay hikes of up to 60,000 zlotys (\$72), the Solidarity Information Service in Warsaw said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, August 7, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	416.0 420.2
U.S. dollar	390.1 396.1	Dutch guilder	270.1 272.8
Pound Sterling	934.2 943.5	Swedish crown	89.5 90.4
Deutschemark	304.7 307.7	Italian lra (for 100)	42.4 42.8
Swiss franc	354.0 357.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	145.5 147.0
French franc	90.0 90.9		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6035/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1760/70	Canadian dollar
	1.9130/37	Deutschemarks
	2.1570/80	Dutch guilders
	1.6490/500	Swiss francs
	40.04/07	Belgian francs
	6.4725/75	French francs
	1376/1377	Italian lire
	139.92/140.02	Japanese yen
	6.5090/140	Swedish crowns
	6.9980/7.0030	Norwegian crowns
	7.4280/330	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	367.30/367.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed higher for the sixth consecutive day as positive sentiment continued to buoy the market. The All Ordinaries Index closed nine points higher at 1,680.0, a post-crash high.

TOKYO — Share prices closed broadly lower on the yen's depreciation, with declines exaggerated by thin trading due to the absence of many big players for summer vacations. The Nikkei Index lost 111.61 points to close at 34,630.38.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index dropped 15.3 to 2,563.77 in the absence of positive news and on selling led by individual investors.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed higher on selective buying and bargain-hunting but sporadic profit-taking pared some of the early gains. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 2.56 to 1,351.74.

BOMBAY — Share prices retreated from a firm start to close mixed after rumours of a payment default on the Calcutta Stock Exchange, undermined sentiment.

FRANKFURT — Leading shares ended mixed but off their early lows as prices rallied in the final half-hour on demand for Volkswagen and a few blue chips. The Dax Index rose 1.73 to 1,592.03.

ZURICH — Shares closed higher in moderately active trading, boosted by active demand for export-related stocks on the back of the dollar's advance. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 6.5 to 1,186.1, a high for the year.

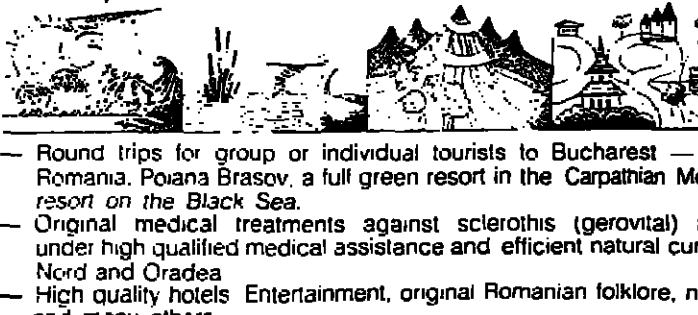
PARIS — Prices were weaker but off their opening lows at mid-session in quiet trading.

LONDON — Prices remained firm in fairly quiet afternoon business, with traders wary of the market's near-term direction after its recent strong gains. At 1501 GMT the FTSE index was up 6.8 at 2,334.3.

NEW YORK — Blue chips reduced earlier slight losses, helped by strong interest in airline, technology and cyclical stocks. The Dow was almost unchanged at 2,653 in mid-morning.

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By Cynthia Bateman

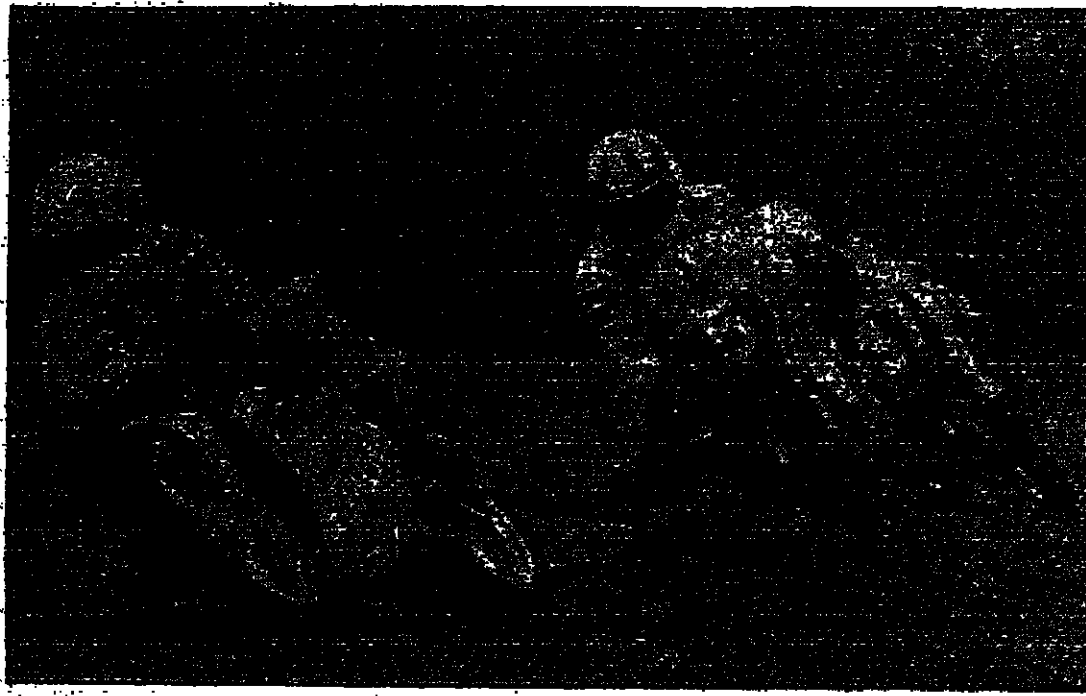
TARU RINNE has one pretty knee and one that would not disgrace an American footballer. It is scarred, swollen and Laura Ashley-coloured. Taru, one of 125cc grand prix motorcycle prodigies, sits clutching an icebag to the injury.

The treatment room—also her living-quarters—seems to be the spare tyre compartment of a transit van, in which two cots and a couple of cupboards constitute home for much of the season, which stretches from March to September.

Against that, this 20-year-old eldest daughter of a Finnish television factory worker, has three mechanics and a manager, who are as devoted to her as to her racing machines. They are the sort of men who treat machinery with the dedication Michelangelo gave the Sistine Chapel. They will not entrust Taru with the cooking of their Italian suppers, but they have no such qualms about letting her loose with their Honda RS125s.

Taru's team, the Italian outfit Servisco, a financial development company, is dwarfed among the big money in the paddocks, that area behind the pits that looks like a giant car boom sale and where the fumes from burnt fuel, brakes and rubber are the very breath of life. Those who wander wide-eyed through this wonderland of revving throttles and crackling exhausts, could easily overlook Servisco's modest camper.

The eye tends to follow instead the snaking cables that service the smoke-glassed windows of the millionaire riders' wander-wagons; air conditioned, electric-



Round the bend: nothing distinguishes Rinne from her male competitors.

Taru Rinne wows the boys on the motorbike circuit

curtained, security-scanned, golf carts, scooters, push-bikes ferry the cognoscenti around Paddock City.

Taru lumps. She and her team might be camped and cramped on the tarmac but they are on the road to stardom. The hard currency here is the logo: Marlboro Yamaha, Rothmans Honda, Cavin, Lucky Strike, Elf oil and cigarette money going up in smoke. Servisco is smaller beer

but money is less of a problem this year for Taru since she became part of their set-up; her machines and mechanics paid for. "It was very difficult last year; difficult to get mechanics, difficult to get a living yet but I must make a living yet but I must be pleased, and I think if I can get some good results it will be even better next year."

She is already earning her corn, her results this year starting the

opposition. But a crash at Spa caused the knee problem, keeping her out of the French Grand Prix and knocking her placing in the world championship series.

She is billed in the trade as "the unbelievable," "the Finnish wonder girl," but recent results have taken her out of the attractive eccentricity category and established her as a series contender. "She is really good," said a member of the opposition. "She needs



Spot the difference: Rinne unmixed.

Rinne unmixed.

a great deal of stamina, a lot of courage and plenty of skill to ride like this. They are very small bikes but they are pretty quick. They can reach up to 130-135 mph and the races last about 40-45 minutes.

Out on the circuit there is nothing to distinguish her from the other 50-odd riders holding down the 125cc machines, the spitting toasts of motorcycle racing. Only when the blur slows enough to transfigure into human form do the brown eyes give the clue, and the tangle of hair under the helmet gives the game away. But the vital statistics are 17-7-8, which, in that order, are her placings in the world championship series, the German Grand Prix (her best result) and the Dutch Grand Prix.

She was said to have "stunned the paddock," the heartland of motorcycle racing, at the German Grand Prix when she qualified second fastest to Ezio Gianola, the world series leader, and proved herself not afraid to mix it with the likes of Alex Criville, Julian Miralles and Fausto Gresini. She tired in the actual event and then crashed at Spa, sustaining the knee injury which meant missing the French.

She got her driving licence at 16, the minimum age in Finland, and has been racing ever since. "I finished fifth in my first race out of about 20 riders, and perhaps that is why I didn't want to stop." The following years she came fourth and then second in national championships. Then it was Europe and now, this year, the world.

"I just like to go fast," she said. "You have to be fairly fit but I find it more tiring mentally than physically. The other riders were a bit surprised at first at a girl riding but now I think they believe it." They had better.

"I want to be world champion," she said. The look in her eyes said: "I'm going to be." (The Guardian)

Soviets and E. Germans lose stranglehold

U.K. wins European Cup

GATESHEAD, England (R) — Britain's 4x400 men's relay quartet snatched a thrilling victory in the final event Sunday to give their team unexpected first place in the European cup athletics competition.

It was the first time since the biennial eight-nation team event began in 1965 that neither of the two European giants, the Soviet Union and East Germany, had won the men's cup.

Britain and the Soviet Union, who took second place ahead of East Germany, will now represent Europe in September's World Cup in Barcelona.

There was some consolation for East Germany when they won the women's event for the ninth time with a record tally of 120 points. The Soviet Union were second with 95 and Britain third on 84.

The day, though, belonged to the British men who found, to their amazement, that they were the overnight leaders in the two-day competition.

Colin Jackson, the Olympic silver medalist, gave them a perfect start when he won the high hurdles and there were also victories for Tom McKean in the 800 metres and world indoor champion John Regis in the 200.

Jackson paid tribute to teammate Kris Akabusi, who launched the British triumph with an upset win in Saturday's 400 metres hurdles.

"Kris gave us a great start yesterday and there was a bit of

pressure on me to do the same," Jackson said.

"For the first time everyone was counting the points — I have never seen anything like that before."

Jackson's sentiments were echoed by McKean, who became the first man to win the 800 for the third successive time.

"It's like a party," McKean said. "We're all laughing, bubbling and joking."

McKean also praised the crowd, who gave Britain generous support in hot, sultry weather which proved ideal for high-class athletics.

"The crowd were absolutely brilliant," McKean said.

The relay provided the perfect climax to the meeting.

Britain led the Soviet Union by just one point after 19 of the 20 events and their 4x400 team had a distinctly makeshift look about it.

Lead-off runner Peter Cramp-ton was seventh at the first changeover but, crucially, he was ahead of Soviet Alexei Bazarov.

Akabusi took Britain to fourth then Todd Bennett ran a great third leg to hand over to anchorman Brian Whittle level with the East and West German runners.

Whittle battled through the final 400 to edge West German Ralf

Luebke for first place, the Soviet Union struggled home seventh and Britain had won the cup.

"It was brilliant," a jubilant Akabusi said. "It was good to be part of that team spirit — to be in at the beginning and then at the end."

Bennett added: "We knew we had to beat the Russians but it was, in the end, a question of getting in front and not giving in."

The East German women showed they remain in a class of their own in Europe with wins for Petra Felke in the javelin, Heike Hartwig in the shot, Silke Moeller in the 200, Cornelia Oschkenat in the 10 hurdles and Katrin Ulrich in the 10,000.

Olympic champion Felke, throwing with her knee bandaged, won her third successive cup title.

There was a fine double for Romania's Doina Nelinte who added the 1,500 to Saturday's 800.

Rodion Gataulin, one of only two men to have cleared six metres in the pole vault, showed what he thought of the opposition here by waiting until all his opponents had been eliminated before taking his first vault.

The Soviet vaulter won the competition by clearing 5.70 metres with his only attempt before missing three times at 5.90.

Graf prevails in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — West Germany's Steffi Graf was far from her best but that was still enough to beat second seed Zina Garrison Sunday in the final of the \$200,000 San Diego classic tennis tournament.

"I played a 'four'," said Graf, who was asked to rate her performance in the 6-4, 7-5 victory that brought her the first prize of \$40,000.

"I didn't play well today. My forehand didn't work too well. I didn't serve well either," added Graf, who dropped serve seven times during the one hour 26-minute match.

The 20-year-old Graf, who last year swept all four Grand Slam events, had rolled over Canadian Renee Simpson, American Betsy Nagelsen, and compatriots Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and Bettina

Bunge before stumbling just a bit against Garrison.

Despite winning her ninth title of the year, the world number one was grumbling.

"I feel disappointed, even after winning," said Graf, who two years ago this week claimed the world number one position.

The opening set was marked by seven service breaks. After breaking Garrison in the ninth game, Graf finally held serve to settle the first set.

The 25-year-old Garrison, ranked sixth, continued to force the play, rushing the net at every opportunity.

That strategy, coupled with Graf's forehand errors, allowed the American to grab a 5-3 lead and at 30-0 was serving to even the match. Graf, however, responded brilliantly and ran off

the next four games breaking Garrison twice to win the match.

"I never counted myself out. That's one thing about me. When I'm down I'm not afraid to go for the shots," Graf said.

Garrison said the match should have gone to a third set.

"I definitely should have won the second set. I pressured her, but I didn't take advantage of the opportunities she gave me. You have to because she doesn't give you that many."

Garrison said she needs to be "a little meaner, get that killer instinct," when she plays Graf.

"Like I've been saying the whole week, she's definitely a great player. But I'm not afraid of her," Garrison said. "You have to challenge her. She's good at what she does, but she's beatable."

Eagles beat the Browns 17-13

LONDON (R) — The Philadelphia Eagles took charge early and went on to beat the Cleveland Browns 17-13 Sunday in the fourth American Bowl Football Exhibition at Wembley.

The Eagles grabbed a 7-0 lead early in the opening quarter and remained in control of the game throughout.

A perfect 34-yard touchdown pass from reserve quarterback

Don McPherson to Henry Williams gave Philadelphia 17-6 lead in the final quarter to clinch the victory.

Cleveland came back with a late touchdown to make the score respectable but there was no doubt that the green-shirted Eagles deserved their victory before 73,677 fans.

Philadelphia scored their first touchdown when, after a Browns'

fumble, star quarterback Randall Cunningham drove them 48 yards in eight plays before running back Mark Higgs dived over for the score. Luis Zendejas kicked the extra point.

Though the Browns enjoyed prolonged possessions in the second quarter, the Eagles extended their lead before the half when Zendejas kicked a 48-yard field goal to make it 10-0.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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READ THEM AND WIN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 6 4

♥ K Q 8 2

♦ Q 7 5

♣ J 9 3

WEST EAST

♠ A K 2 ♠ Q J 9 3

♥ A 10 5 ♥ 7

♦ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ 6 4 2

♣ A 10 ♣ 8 7 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ 10 8 5

♥ 10 6 4 3

♦ A K

♣ K Q 6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 NT 2 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If you read bridge columns, ours

included, you might get the impression

that you have to be in game or

slam for the play to be interesting.

Nothing could be further from the

truth. Many low-level contracts feature

sparkling play and defense.

West's no trump overall showed

the equivalent of a trump opening

bid. Because of his fit, North

might have considered a penalty

double rather than two hearts—

declarer could have been held to six

tricks.

Against two hearts, West led the

king of spades and East dropped the

queen. This play guarantees either a

singleton queen or possession of the

jack as well. Since a singleton queen

was impossible (that would have

given South a six-card spade suit),

West knew he had an entry to his

partner's hand. He also knew that

he could expect no other help from

his partner—all the points in the

pack were accounted for.

For the defense to prevail, the

defenders would need to take three

spade tricks. That, together with the

aces of hearts and clubs, would pro-

vide the defensive book. Where was

the setting trick coming from?

A trump promotion was impossi-

ble because of dummy's holding.

That left only a club ruff. So at trick

two, West abandoned spades in fa-

vor of switching to the ace of clubs

and another. Declarer won and led a

trump. But West wasted no time. He

climbed up with the ace, cashed the

ace of spades and continued with a

spade to East's jack. The obvious

club return and West's ruff for a

one-trick set completed an excellent

defense.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

PSD SOCCER TEAM TRIUMPHS: The PSD soccer team Monday beat the Police Training College in the security soccer teams cup on penalties 5-4 after drawing level at full-time in Amman stadium. Brigadier Nsouh Muhyeddin distributed medals at the end of the match (Petra).

ARSENAL DEFEATS INDEPENDIENTE 2-1: English league champions Arsenal beat Argentina's Independiente 2-1 Sunday in Miami to win the Zenith Cup title before a disappointing crowd of 10,042 at Joe Robbie Stadium. David Rocastle scored both goals for Arsenal, the winner coming on a penalty kick at the 86-minute mark. The match between the two national champions marked their first meeting since the Falkland Islands crisis in 1982 but the prospects for a tension-filled match failed to raise much fan interest. "They (Americans) have a mere five years to wake up before the rest of the world watches them at the World Cup (in 1994)," said Arsenal coach George Graham. (R)

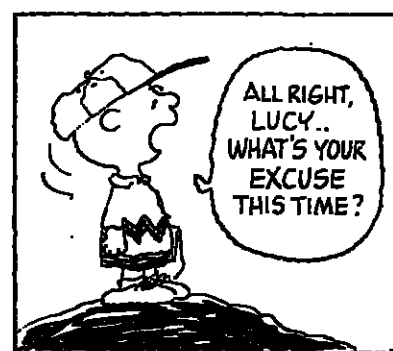
COLLISION FORCES ARGENTINE YACHT OUT: Admiral's Cup competitors set off Sunday on the gruelling 605-mile Fastnet race between England and Ireland but within three hours the Argentine entry had to withdraw after an accident. The yacht Daphne was forced to head for the mainland for repairs after colliding with a 50-foot yacht that was sailing in the Fastnet race but is not entered in the overall Admiral's Cup of which the Fastnet event is the most prestigious part. The start of the Fastnet race from Cowes on the Isle of Wight, of the southern coast of England, was delayed for 10 minutes while race officials waited for a fresh sea breeze to come in. (AP)

CHILE BEATS VENEZUELA 3-1 IN WORLD CUP: Chile beat Venezuela 3-1 Sunday in the South American elimination round for the world championship, but failed to make enough points to oust giant Brazil as group three leader. The first half ended 2-0. Chile scored its first goal at the sixth minute, when Yanez, who plays with Spain's Betis team, slipped through Venezuela's weak defence. Jorge Aravena, nephew of Chilean technical director Orlando Aravena, scored the second with a strong shot at the 33rd minute. In the second half, Venezuela went on the attack, and Fernandez scored the team's only point at the 20th minute. The Venezuelans tried desperately to even the score, but their efforts were stymied by goalkeeper Rojas. (AP)

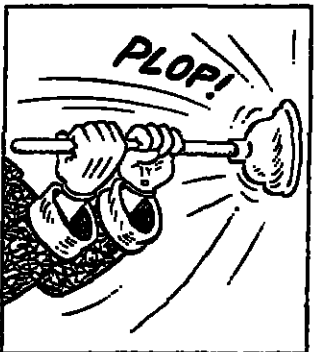
Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

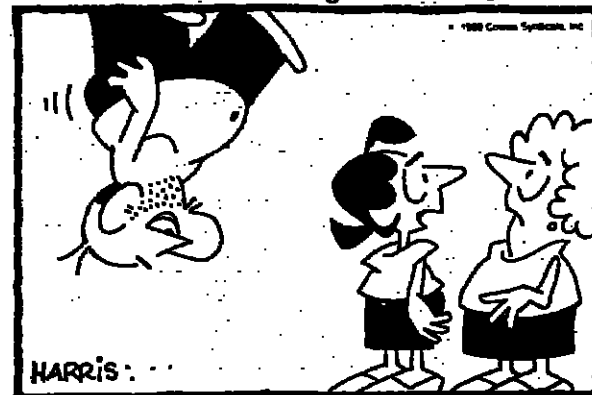


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



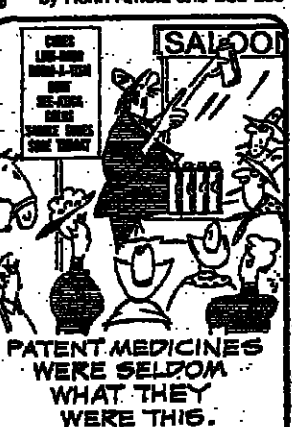
"Stanley got up this morning and completely forgot about gravity!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KANCK



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "_____ UP TO _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ANISE DAISY BELIEF FAMOUS

Answer: Women use perfume because some men are easily this—LED BY THE NOSE.

سورة الأهل

Colombo delays next move on troop pullout

COLOMBO (Agencies) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa has put off until Friday his next move on Sri Lanka's dispute with New Delhi over the withdrawal of Indian forces, political sources said Monday.

As India continued pulling out a further 1,500 of the 44,500 troops remaining on the island, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said in New Delhi there were no simple solutions for ending Sri Lanka's ethnic strife.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted Gandhi as telling Indian delegates to a Non-Aligned Movement symposium there were "really no simple solutions and both sides have to take hard decisions."

Premadasa discussed with the cabinet Monday India's response to his demand for a speedy withdrawal of the Indian forces. A government statement said he had called another special meeting for Friday.

It said Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne briefed the cabinet and would make a statement in parliament Tuesday about the talks in New Delhi last week.

"A special cabinet meeting is scheduled for Friday... so that the president will be able to arrive at a decision," the statement added.

The opposition was expected to call for a debate in parliament on the troop withdrawal and on the worsening security situation on the island, political sources said.

A diplomatic crisis erupted last month when Premadasa asked Gandhi to withdraw all its troops

more than 70 civilians and damaging 300 houses in operations at Valvetturai in the north since Aug. 2.

The group, now represented in parliament, asked in a letter to parliamentarians for a commission to be set up to inquire into the killings.

Indian sources in Colombo said they had no information about the alleged incidents.

An Indian High Commission spokesman confirmed that 675 soldiers, belonging to the Mahar regiment, left Sunday and described the withdrawal as an act of "sincerity towards Sri Lanka."

India dispatched troops to Sri Lanka two years ago to enforce a peace accord and to supervise an arms surrender by Tamil guerrillas.

The accord faltered when the dominant Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, rejected it, saying it did not meet Tamil aspirations.

Sinhalese extremists headed by the People's Liberation Front (JVP) have stirred up an anti-India campaign to protest the presence of Indian soldiers deployed in the Tamil-dominated north and east.

At least 4,000 people, mostly government officials and backers, have been killed in the two-year Sinhalese uprising. The Tamil insurgency has claimed another 11,000 lives.

Meanwhile, suspected JVP members killed 56 people at the weekend, military sources said.



Kneeling contras are blessed before they move across the Honduran border into Nicaragua.

Central American leaders fail to set agenda for disbanding contras

TELA, Honduras (AP) — The five Central American presidents failed to reach an agreement Sunday on a timetable for dismantling the Nicaraguan rebels, despite a prediction that such an accord was imminent.

"There is no accord about a timetable, but there is agreement on mechanisms," Honduran President Jose Azcona told reporters after the second day of a three-day summit.

Earlier, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias had said the presidents would set a timetable for disbanding the U.S.-backed rebels, known as contras.

"Today we'll reach an agreement, by consensus or from ex-

haustion," Arias had said in an interview.

Arias had joined the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua for a second day of talks to discuss steps toward regional peace, including talks to end El Salvador's nine-year-old civil war.

But disbanding the 11,000 contras — most of whom are based in Honduras along the Nicaraguan border — was the most pressing issue.

The presidents had agreed at a February summit in El Salvador to resettle the rebels, but deferred decisions on how it would be done until this meeting.

U.S. President George Bush's

administration has lobbied Central American governments to keep the contras active until Nicaraguan elections scheduled for February.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said he wants the rebel organization dismantled now, but told reporters he is flexible about the timetable and said he expected the resettlement to be gradual.

Ortega bolstered his position by signing an agreement Friday with his domestic political opposition that calls for demobilizing the rebels in Honduran camps. In exchange, he pledged democratic reforms.

"We have made advances, we

have achieved substantial points, we have exchanged opinions," Ortega told reporters in this Caribbean port, about 320 kilometres north of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa.

The presidents declined comment on the substance of the talks, but spoke of their aspirations.

"I've seen a willingness to go forward with the (peace) process," said Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo. "There are difficulties and we could stumble, but I hope we can move forward."

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said he hoped the peace talks also address a solution to his country's guerrilla war.

New Zealand premier quits

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister David Lange, who transformed New Zealand in five years of social and economic upheaval, resigned Monday leaving open the question of his succession.

Lange told a news conference he would quit because he had set his labour government back on course after "frustrations with lunacy" — a reference to radical free-market policies of former Finance Minister Roger Douglas.

New Zealand's financial markets flattered nervously but recovered quickly after the shock resignation, the dollar rebounding to 0.5875/85 U.S. dollars after falling nearly one U.S. cent on opening.

Lange's departure could bring Douglas, once his closest political ally but now a sworn foe, back into a powerful cabinet post after eight months in the political wilderness.

Political analysts said Douglas's election back to cabinet last week, despite Lange's strong

opposition, and question marks over the prime minister's health seemed to have played a major part in his decision to go.

Lange fired Douglas last December after the two clashed over how far to take Labour's shock treatment aimed at stimulating a declining New Zealand economy.

Without naming names, Lange said last month's budget had proved the turning point away from Douglas's hardline policies. "That budget put an end to what had seemed hitherto to be some sort of relentless juggernaut of the new right."

Since the budget, which stressed social issues as well as sticking to the fight against inflation, Labour has stated a dramatic comeback in opinion polls. Lange's government has slashed the opposition National Party's lead of up to 26 percentage points back to just six in the latest poll.

"I was proud of that budget. It sets the way ahead," said Lange.

"The polls have demonstrated the electorate has the conviction that the Labour Party can win the 1990 general election and I have that conviction."

Labour members of parliament will decide at a meeting Tuesday who will lead the party into the election, due in October next year. Lange will then formally resign and the winner become New Zealand's next prime minister.

Three front-runners have emerged: Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer, External Relations and Trade Minister Mike Moore and Douglas himself.

In Canberra, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke lost no time in making his forecast.

"It's assumed, I think, that Geoffrey Palmer would succeed Mr. Lange," he told reporters. "Assuming that he's going to be the prime minister... I can look forward to working very effectively and well with Geoffrey."

Solidarity rejects coalition

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity said Monday it had rejected a Communist Party proposal to join in a coalition government and urged the party to make way for an opposition administration.

Solidarity's decision dealt a blow to Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak's efforts to make the opposition share responsibility for an economic austerity programme exemplified by food price rises of up to 500 per cent last week.

Solidarity's parliamentary leader, Bronislaw Geremek, turned down Kiszczak's offer of several government ministries for the opposition when they met in Warsaw Saturday, the Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza said.

"I presented our well-known position, that we are ready to form a government but are not planning to enter a government formed by the Communist Party," Geremek said.

"Nothing has changed. The constitution still has an article on

the leading role of the party and the monopoly of a single party still prevails in political reality. To take several ministerial posts would not change anything. The dramatic situation of the economy requires a completely new policy."

The government's removal of almost all food price subsidies last week sparked brief strikes in several big industries, notably the railway and telecommunications networks. Solidarity reported no serious labour unrest Monday.

Solidarity fears its public prestige could diminish if it enters the government as a junior member and is forced to accept partial responsibility for a further fall in living standards.

In addition, Solidarity strategists say the movement is entitled to form a government on its own because its victory over the Communist Party in elections in 1981, was appointed prime minister Aug. 2 despite the opposition of Solidarity members of parliament.

Some Solidarity activists say they were disappointed by Kiszczak's appointment. Jaruzelski's move to the presidency and the promotion of another veteran politician, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, to lead the Communist Party,

entirement that Poles have been waiting for," Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told reporters in the Baltic port of Gdansk.

Jacek Kuron, a leading Solidarity adviser, said he had told Kiszczak that a Polish government needed strong public support and a Communist-dominated team was incapable of mustering it.

"The premier did not deny this, but this does not mean that he agreed with my opinion," Kuron said.

Kiszczak, a former interior minister who masterminded with President Wojciech Jaruzelski the imposition of martial law in 1981, was appointed prime minister Aug. 2 despite the opposition of Solidarity members of parliament.

Some Solidarity activists say they were disappointed by Kiszczak's appointment. Jaruzelski's move to the presidency and the promotion of another veteran politician, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, to lead the Communist Party,

Former revolutionary heads Bolivia coalition government

LA PAZ (R) — Social Democrat Jaime Paz Zamora, a one-time leftist revolutionary who has pledged political and economic stability and a battle against drug trafficking, Sunday became president of Bolivia, Latin America's poorest country.

"Together we can consolidate a nation in democracy," he said in a swearing-in speech.

Paz, 50, president of a coalition government backed by former military dictator Hugo Banzer, said that during his four-year term his government would open a new period of political stability in Bolivia's turbulent history of 180 military coups in 164 years as a republic.

He received the presidential sash from his 81-year-old uncle, Victor Paz Estenssoro, the first

elected president in 25 years to complete his term in Bolivia.

Paz promised to maintain the economic stability achieved by the previous government that brought Bolivia back from economic chaos and curbed inflation, reducing it from a record 24,000 per cent in 1985 to the lowest rate in Latin America.

He also pledged to fight the illegal drug traffic that has turned Bolivia into the world's second producer of cocaine.

Paz appointed a cabinet in which Banzer's right-wing Democratic Nationalist Action (ADN) Party holds nine of the 18 posts, including the key finance and mining ministries.

Luis Ossio Sanjinés, a Christian Democratic lawyer and Banzer's vice-presidential candidate

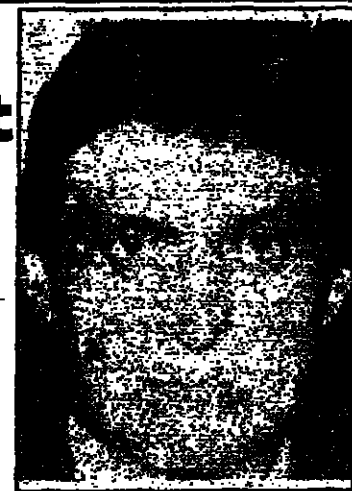
in May 7 general elections, was sworn in as vice-president.

Politicians said Banzer, who ruled Bolivia with an iron fist from 1971-78, would be the power behind the throne in the new administration.

Paz and other radical intellectuals founded the Revolutionary Left Movement (MLR) Party to fight Banzer's regime in 1971. He was jailed and exiled by Banzer in 1974.

Banzer has today gone beyond the problems of the past to become one of the main builders of Bolivia's democracy," Paz said in his speech.

Paz was vice-president in the leftist government of Hernan Siles Zuazo (1981-85) that took Bolivia to the brink of economic anarchy and hyperinflation. He



Jaime Paz Zamora

has since moderated his views.

Paz said he would continue the outgoing administration's free market economic policies and would not introduce price controls or exchange restrictions. He guaranteed foreign currency bank deposits.

Arms talks end with major differences

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and Soviet officials Monday concluded the first round of nuclear arms negotiations under the Bush administration without making progress on their major disagreements.

"Whatever progress has been made does not involve, to my regret, solutions to major outstanding issues," chief Soviet negotiator Yuri Nazarkin told a news conference after a brief exchange of documents with his U.S. counterpart, Richard Burt.

After a three-month defence policy review, President George Bush decided to pursue broadly the same goals as the Reagan administration in the talks, which

seek to halve the superpowers' long-range nuclear arsenals to 6,000 warheads.

Burt has expressed satisfaction with the seven weeks of talks but has also conceded that the major gaps might have to be resolved in a superpower summit.

The two most important areas of disagreement are whether to limit sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCM) and whether a strategic arms (START) treaty should be linked to an agreement on space-based defences like the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Nazarkin said disagreement was so fundamental on an agreement on "defence and space"

that no improvements at all had been made on a draft text.

"In this area, the sides' positions are too wide apart to allow for any progress," he said.

He repeated the Soviet position that a START treaty was only possible if the two countries strictly adhered to their 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty (ABM). This, he said would preclude SDI.

The United States maintains that Moscow is trying to hold START hostage to the "Star Wars" issue. It also says that once a START treaty is signed it would be destabilising to allow its abrogation on the grounds that one side has withdrawn from or is

not observing the ballistic missile treaty or a defence and space agreement.

Nazarkin said "the problem of long-range SLCMs continues to be the most controversial" in the START talks. Washington says it is impossible to verify limits on these missiles, fitted to submarines roaming the seas. Moscow disagrees.

Both sides are looking for impetus from a meeting next month in the United States between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"I think this meeting will be of extreme importance," Nazarkin said.

Next to Zurich's imposing museum lies country's most pressing problem

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

ZURICH — A few steps from the imposing Zurich national museum, where visitors browse through Switzerland's history, passers-by are confronted with the country's most pressing current problem.

Platzspitz Park, once a favourite picnic spot, has become the gathering point for drug addicts in one of the world's wealthiest countries. Switzerland has virtually no unemployment, but it is plagued with one of the highest drug-addiction rates.

Most tourists, admiring Alpine views or shopping for watches and chocolate, are unaware of the problem. Many

Swiss failed for years to grasp its magnitude.

But a recent killing at the Platzspitz shocked the country. An addict was tied up, gagged and drowned following an argument over a piece of chocolate.

"What's wrong with Switzerland? Are we too well-off? Have our young people really lost all sense of where they are going?" wailed Blick, the country's top-circulation tabloid.

Last year, Switzerland recorded 305 drug deaths, compared with 136 in 1986. Figures for the first half of this year suggest yet another sharp increase. Neighbouring West Germany, with a population 10 times that of Switzerland's 6.5 million, had only three times as

many drug fatalities in 1988.

In searching for solutions to the drug problem, a government-established independent commission has recommended legalising possession and consumption of small amounts of drugs.

"Punishing addicts for harming their health does not achieve anything. They need help," Commission President Francois von der Linde said in a recent interview.

The Swiss federal executive has yet to reply to the recommendations, which Arthur Grob of the Zurich Police Narcotics Department dismisses as "impossible and unworkable."

Dr. Werner Fuchs of the Zurich AIDS Intervention Project is also pessimistic.

"There is no solution to the drug problem," he said. Instead, he argued, the top priority should be containing the AIDS virus among Switzerland's 10,000-15,000 heroin addicts. The disease can be spread through using contaminated hypodermic needles.

Switzerland has the highest AIDS rate in Europe with 122.1 cases per million people, ahead of France with 115.3, according to the World Health Organisation.

Fuchs is part of a network of doctors, nurses, social workers and volunteers working 16 hours a day at Platzspitz. They provide needles, free AIDS tests, meals, washing facilities and advice to those who will listen.

Zurich city fathers have authorised the free distribution of syringes in several cities, on an experimental basis, to counter the spread of AIDS. Fuchs says that in good weather, his team hands out as many as 5,000 new syringes a day in Platzspitz in exchange for used ones.

There is no agreed view on why Switzerland has a drug problem, although some experts feel the country's wealth plays a role.

Social worker Vigeli Venzu says young people look for alternative forms of life because they are increasingly tired of traditional Swiss conservatism. Markus Fach, an education expert, cites the "greater discrepancy between the pressure to perform and

the approach to life of many young people."

Dr. Jean-Bernard Ramelet of the Swiss Federal Health Office says the young are disaffected because their parents concentrate too much on work and their savings books. "They ignored the family," he said. "The young feel left out."

Hans Kind, a retired Zurich University professor of psychiatry who has pleaded for legalising drug use, says the problem was largely caused by the ban on consumption, which no longer is enforced in most of Switzerland.

The Platzspitz benches are filled with young people; the park's population can reach 500 on weekends. Some sleep, some stare vacantly into space, others inject heroin. No one

bothers about onlookers. A young girl wanders around eating a piece of cake. Her face is covered with boils; her arms and legs are scarred with the marks of drug abuse.

Around a fountain at the park's centre stand a few tables, makeshift bases for the dealers. Nearby are two huge garbage containers filled with empty soft-drink cans, beer bottles and thousands of syringe wrappers.

Grob claims Platzspitz encourages addiction and acts as a magnet to people from other parts of Switzerland and Europe because they know they can get food, syringes and medical care.

Police have raided the park four times this year, but have detained only 22 people.

COLUMN 1800001

Prostitutes threaten to strip

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of prostitutes are threatening to strip in front of the government palace unless authorities allow the red-light district to re-open, according to news reports. "We don't have anything to lose," said Magdalena Aguirre, a spokeswoman for the newly formed Chihuahua Prostitutes Union. "If they put us in jail, it will be made," she was quoted as saying in the Sunday edition of the Mexico City daily La Jornada. Chihuahua, a northern provincial capital, is about 400 kilometres south of the Texas border city of El Paso. The government closed down Chihuahua's red-light district and its more than 30 bordellos last week, saying the area gave the city a bad image. Union leaders say thousands of people depended on the district for their livelihood. Sergio Granados Pineda, a state government spokesman, told the Mexico City daily Uno Mas Uno that the decision to shutter the district was "irreversible." Aguirre scoffed at Governor Fernando Barraza's suggestion that prostitutes seek factory jobs. Factories "only pay 60,000 pesos (\$23) a week," she said.

Dangerfield honours union strike

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Comedian Rodney Dangerfield honoured the musicians' union strike by not appearing at Bally's hotel and casino. Representatives of musicians' local 369 said Dangerfield changed his mind and agreed not to perform as previously announced. The hotel confirmed that. The hotel announced it was closing its celebrity room, which features name stars, until the strike ends. Musicians struck the strip resort when Bally's switched from musicians to taped music for its jubilee production show. The hotel agreed to continue to use musicians to back up headlines appearing in the celebrity room, but the union set up pickets to protest the switch for the jubilee show. Dean Martin, scheduled to open at the celebrity room, cancelled his engagement rather than cross the picket line. Bally's is the only resort in Las Vegas that has a production show and a room featuring name headlines. The Flamingo Hilton and the Tropicana have switched from live music to tape for their production shows.

Robbers almost mess up escape

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Two bumbling bank robbers nearly foiled their own getaway when they drove a stolen car over nails they had strewn on the pavement to slow their pursuers. The car, with a flattened tire, was found less than two streets away from the Mercantile Bank branch the men robbed Friday. Witnesses said they saw the men hustle out of the car and run across a weed-covered field with the bank's money after abandoning the vehicle at a car wash. The robbers entered the bank wearing ski masks and dark blue jumpsuits, told the bank's employees to lie on the floor, then took an undetermined amount of money from tellers' drawers. As they left, they chained the handles of the bank's front doors, apparently to slow any possible pursuers, but left untouched an open rear door, said detective Les Ramsey. As the robbers pulled out of the parking lot, they tossed out several boards studded with nails, their points pointing upward to flatten the tires of any pursuing vehicles. They then drove over one of the boards, Ramsey said.

Global weather (major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	18-24	22-75	Cloudy
ATHENS	18-24	36-95	Clear
BAHRAIN	29-34	38-102	Clear
BANGKOK	25-27	33-91	Clear
Buenos Aires	08-16	21-69	Clear
Cairo	21-70	36-97	Clear
CHICAGO	11-51	21-70	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10-20	50-68	Clear
HAWAII	17-25	28-80	Cloudy
HONG KONG	16-21	29-81	Clear
HONG KONG	24-34	32-92	Clear
ISTANBUL	18-24	25-75	Clear
LONDON	17-23	32-78	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	20-28	32-90	Cloudy
MADRID	15-29	30-86	Clear
MEXICO	25-32	43-109	Clear
MONTREAL	21-70	31-85	Clear
MOSCOW	10-15	50-63	Clear
NEW DELHI	26-33	31-90	Clear
NEW YORK	17-23	30-86	Cloudy
PARIS	17-23	27-80	Clear
ROME	20-28	32-90	Clear
SYDNEY	07-17	45-63	Clear
TOKYO	22-28	33-91	Clear
VIENNA	18-24	26-80	Clear

